Hafa Adai!

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'Committees to turn down Fitial request for funds' PAGE 2

WSR requiring uniforms this school year. PAGE 3

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you believe CUC when it says there will be no more power outages after Sept. 16?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

14 DAYS until Sept. 16, when Aggreko generators are to start working

INSIDE

China Quake

Chinese rescue teams rush to reach survivors of an earthquake that killed at least 32.

ASIA...Page 16

Box Office

"The Dark Knight" becomes the second movie in Hollywood history to top $500 million.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Laboring longer is growing trend for Americans

By DAVE CARPENTER
AP BUSINESS WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—Americans are changing the game plan for retirement, with millions laboring right past the traditional retirement age and working into their late 60s and beyond.

See LABORING on Page 4

Car cuts down post on Middle Road

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A white van slammed into an electrical post along Middle Road at about 4pm yesterday, cutting the pole down and its upper half left hanging in the air, with the power lines still attached to it.

The incident slowed down traffic in the area.

See CAR on Page 4

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. personnel remove the upper half of the electric pole after a white Toyota Sienna slammed into it along Middle Road yesterday afternoon.

19 MWs since Friday

Power Plant 1 down to one engine again

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With only one engine operating at Power Plant 1 since Friday, the island has been running on just 19 megawatts of power.

As of yesterday afternoon, engine six at Power Plant 1 was the only engine working, said Antonio Muña, executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Nine of the 10 engines at Power Plant 4 con-

See 19 MWS on Page 4

IN BRIEF

POWER NEEDED:	41
AVAILABLE:	19
DEFICIT:	22

RAMADAN BEGINS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Members of Saipan's Muslim community kneel and bow their heads in prayer as they join the start of the worldwide observance of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan inside the mosque in Garapan yesterday afternoon. During this month, Muslims abstain from food, drink, smoke and other sensual pleasures from dawn to dusk every day.

NMI govt objects to marine monument plan

KAILUA-KONA, Hawaii (AP)—The territorial government of the Northern Mariana Islands is clashing with the Bush administration and conservationists who want to protect the ocean surrounding several Pacific atolls and reefs.

A delegation from Saipan made it clear last week at meetings of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force in Hawaii that they do not like the ambitious marine protection efforts of the federal government or the

See NMI on Page 4

Local

ON PLANNED LAWSUIT AGAINST FEDERALIZATION LAW

'Committees to turn down request for funds'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal relations committees in both the Senate and House of Representatives are expected to come out with a joint report that will recommend that the Legislature reject Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's request for public funds to support a lawsuit against the federalization law.

Rep. Christina Sablan disclosed in an e-mail that the Senate and House federal relations committees should be submitting the joint report this week or so.

Sablan said the report would urge the Legislature to deny Fitial's request for public funds and recommend other avenues for negotiation and cooperation with the federal government that should be pursued first.

The report, the lawmaker said, will ask the Legislature to pursue negotiation to address the concerns and uncertainties that people share about the potential impacts of the new federal immigration law.

Another lawmaker said some lawmakers discussed the rejection of the governor's request during a meeting inside the office of Rep. Diego T. Benavente last Thursday.

Benavente, a former lieutenant governor, is chairman of the House's Committee on United States and Foreign Relations. He strongly opposes the litigation, saying the CNMI should engage the federal government in dialogue instead of a costly but uncertain lawsuit.

The House's top leaders—Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and Vice Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero on Thursday echoed Benavente's position.

Last Friday, Senate President Pete P. Reyes also expressed opposition to a costly litigation. He suggested a cheaper way: request for Section 902 consultation with the federal government.

During last week's closed-door presentation in the House's chamber, the governor's special legal counsel, Howard Willens, tried to convince the Legislature to provide funding of about $400,000 in an eight-month period that he said the administration will need to pursue the lawsuit.

Man charged with selling 'ice' near school

A Chinese man was charged in federal court Thursday with distributing methamphetamine or "ice."

Ying Min Jin, 38, was charged with felony counts of distributing a controlled substance and distributing a controlled substance near a school or college on the island of Tinian.

Jin allegedly tried to sell 0.4 grams of methamphetamine to a confidential source.

The poker business where the transaction took place is located less than 1,000 feet from the Tinian Grace Christian Academy School, according to court documents.

District Court Judge Alex Munson denied bail and ordered Jin back into the custody of the U.S. Marshal. George Hasselback was appointed Jin's attorney, and a preliminary hearing was set for Friday. ***(Kristi Eaton)***

US: Faulty valve caused nuclear sub leak

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—Japan has received a final U.S. report concluding that small amounts of radiation escaped from a faulty valve on an American nuclear-powered submarine during Japanese port visits but posed no health or environmental threat, the Foreign Ministry said.

The U.S. Navy disclosed in early August that the USS *Houston* had leaked water containing radiation during several calls to Sasebo and Okinawa in southern Japan and Yokosuka near Tokyo between July 2006 and April 2008.

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission James P. Zumwalt submitted the report Friday, saying the Navy investigation concluded that the leakage in the three ports totaled 0.6 micro curies, or less than one-millionth of a curie, which posed no danger to Japan, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement obtained Saturday. The ministry provided a copy of the report.

"The trace levels of radioactivity would have no adverse effect on human health, marine life, or the environment," the U.S. report said. "The radiation exposure dose would be less than that received from a routine chest X-ray."

The report said the U.S. Navy was improving the valve's quality before sending the submarine back into operation.

It said the Navy, after reviewing records dating back to 2004, concluded that "the valve had been steadily leaking" from June 2006 until the submarine entered dry dock in July, when the problem was discovered for the first time. About a gallon of water spilled onto a crew member on July 17 when a fitting came loose. The report also said no similar leakage had occurred in the past 50 years.

U.S. officials were not available for comment Saturday.

The incident has caused a stir in Japan weeks ahead of the arrival of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS *George Washington*, to be permanently based in Yokosuka, near Tokyo. The *George Washington* is to arrive in late September after a fire aboard the vessel in May delayed its departure—another incident that irked many Japanese.

The presence of nuclear submarines is particularly sensitive in Japan, the only country to have been attacked by U.S. atomic bombs in the closing days of World War II.

The Navy has said the Houston also released tiny amounts of radiation in Guam, Pearl Harbor, and during port visits in Singapore, Port Kelang, Malaysia and Saipan.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

LABOR DAY PICNIC
Children frolick on the pristine waters of Micro Beach as they spend their Labor Day with their families at Micro Beach yesterday afternoon. Several Saipan residents marked the three-day holiday with barbecues at the beach and get-together with extended families.

MARINE MONUMENT PUBLIC PRESENTATION SCHEDULE for the Week of September 1, 2008

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
6:00pm	6:00pm	6:00pm
Economic Study	Concept Overview	Concept Overview

Presentations are open to the public and anyone interested in learning more is invited to attend.
No reservations required.

We are located at the JT Guerrero building in Garapan next to Asia Scooter Rentals.
This schedule will rotate weekly and presentations will be added.
Schedules will be noticed weekly on Tuesdays.
Private presentations are available upon request – please give us a call!
If you need more information please call us at 234-2665.

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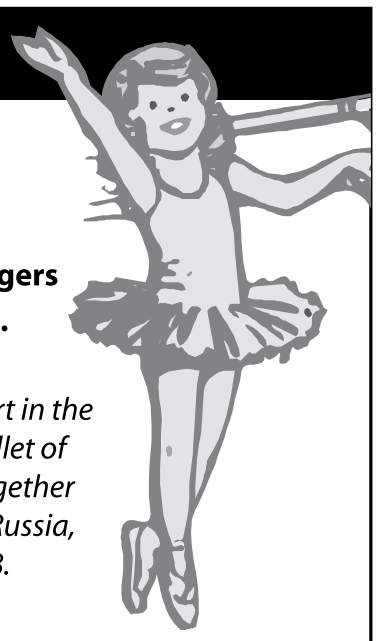

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WSR requiring uniforms this school year

By KRISTI EATON
Kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students at Williams S. Reyes Elementary School will be required to wear uniforms this school year.

Uniforms will allow all students to be on a level playing field, school principal Lynette Villagomez said.

"It balances social and economic status," she said.

Uniforms will also help distinguish current students from former students who might be visiting the campus, and the blue color will instill school pride, she said.

This will make WSR school the only public school on island requiring student uniforms.

Boys will have a choice of cargo shorts or pants, while girls can choose between a skort or capri pants. Both boys and girls will wear a polo shirt. A set of five costs $115, but parents can buy pieces separately, she said.

Parents were sent a survey last year asking for their input on the idea, Villagomez said. A committee looked at several proposals before deciding on the uniforms.

"They did research. They looked not only at quality but price as well," she said.

The committee is looking at different options to help those who are unable to afford the clothes. One possibility is using money from penny drives to cover the uniform costs, Villagomez said.

Reyes says he has no authority to expel Crisostimo

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Pete P. Reyes said he has no authority to expel Sen. Luis Crisostimo from the Senate just because Crisostimo is running for the U.S. delegate position.

"As far as I am concerned, to resign is his decision. I don't know if I have any authority. Our legal counsel has not told me that I have the authority to make him resign," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune*.

Reyes

Crisostimo

Some lawmakers have questioned whether the Senate leadership would declare one Senate position for Saipan vacant since the Commonwealth Election Commission had already certified Crisostimo's candidacy. The senator himself has yet to resign.

Saipan Tribune earlier asked Crisostimo if he is going to resign considering he is one of the nine delegate hopefuls, but the senator refused to comment.

Reyes said he has looked into the Senate rules and that Crisostimo has not violated anything in the rules that would compel him to expel the delegate candidate.

"To expel him, I have to find some violations of law," he pointed out.

The Senate president said that part of the constitutional requirement for the Senate to expel a member is for a determination that a senator has violated Senate rules.

"Which part of the Senate rules did he [Crisostimo] violate because nobody has pointed that out to me yet?" Reyes asked.

"If we had amended the Senate rules to say that if a person is running for another office other than the position he is currently holding and his term is not up, that the Senate rules require that he should resign, then Crisostimo would be in violation of that rule. But there is no such thing in our rules," Reyes noted.

If any member of the community feels that Crisostimo should resign they should take the issue to court, he added.

"Any member of the community has a right to take this to court and force the issue," Reyes said.

Reyes conceded, though, that if he is in Crisostimo's position, he will resign.

"But I will resign because I feel that my ethics, my credibility, my principle demands that I resign. But it's not because you tell me to resign or somebody else told me to resign," he said.

COMPANY TRIP CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maeda Pacific Corp.'s Guam and Saipan staff pose for souvenir picture in front of Coco's Restaurant in Garapan. Headed by Maeda president Tom Nielsen, standing second from left, and vice president Tsutomo Yamakwa, leftmost, all the staff stayed at the Hyatt Regency Saipan for their annual company trip. While on Saipan, they visited Maeda's different project sites and went around the island. Everybody said they enjoyed their stay here in Saipan.

Senate president supports continued access to Chinese, Russian markets

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Pete P. Reyes has expressed full support for the CNMI's continued access to the emerging Chinese and Russian visitor markets.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* on Friday, Reyes said he is 100 percent in favor of House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios' intention to come up with a joint House-Senate resolution regarding the visa waiver issue for the Chinese and Russian tourists.

"That's why part of the discussions that we had when Speaker Palacios and I went to Washington D.C. was to request if the CNMI government can be allowed to participate in the crafting of the regulation on the federal immigration law," he said.

The whole idea, the Senate president said, was to see how the CNMI would benefit from this visa waiver program.

He said one way is by recommending an exemption because the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is supposed to be taking a lead role in the implementation and enforcement of federalization of CNMI's immigration.

"But they also have the authority to make appropriate changes whenever that is desirable to do so," he said.

Reyes said the continued access to Chinese and Russian visitor markets is very important for the CNMI to make up for the loss in the Japanese tourists.

"In order to make up for these losses, we need to begin looking at other parts of the world that we can convince that the CNMI is a good point of destination for tourism," he said.

Palacios earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that he had instructed Rep. Diego T. Benavente to look into the visa waiver issue and possibly come up with a joint resolution with the Senate, urging the Department of Homeland Security to consider the CNMI's request for visa waiver for emerging tourism markets.

Palacios had said that after reading a recent joint report of the Marianas Integrated Immigration Task Force regarding the implementation of the CNMI-Guam visa waiver program, be believes the Legislature must come up with a unified position on the issue.

According to the Task Force's joint report, the loss of the Chinese and Russia markets would have a significant adverse impact on the CNMI's economy.

The report says that from 2008 to 2010, these two markets alone are projected to contribute a total of $1.01 billion in tourist spending, government revenues, and peripheral economic activities.

The CNMI began welcoming Chinese tourists in 1998, while it started catering to Russian tourists in 1996, both under the Commonwealth's Visitor Entry Permit process.

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New Student Registration:
September 4-5, 2008 10 am to 6 pm in ABE Office.

Late Registration:
September 8-9, 2008 8am to 5 pm in ABE Office.

Student Orientation:
September 16, 2008 5-6:30 pm in D-1

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Placement Test:	August 21-22, 2008	Th-F	01:00-05:00 PM	K-1
Late Placement Test:	August 25-29, 2008	M-Th	08:30-12:30 PM	K-1
Registration for Returning Students:	September 2-3, 2008	TW	10:00-06:00 PM	ABE
Registration for New Students:	September 4-5 , 2008	ThF	10:00-06:00 PM	ABE
Late Registration:	September 8-9, 2008	MT	08:00-05:00 PM	ABE
CASAS Appraisal Test	September 10-11, 2008	WTh	09:00-10:00 AM	K-1
			01:00-02:00 PM	K-1
			05:00-06:00 PM	K-1
CASAS Pre-Test	September 12 & 15, 2008	FM	09:00-10:30 AM	K-1
			01:00-02:30 PM	K-1
			05:00-06:30 PM	K-1
Student Orientation:	September 16, 2008	T	05:00-06:30 PM	D-1
CASAS Make-Up Tests	September 16, 2008	T	08:00-05:00 PM	K-1
Add/Drop for Students:	September 17-26, 2008		08:00-05:00 PM	ABE

First Day of Instruction:	MWF Classes	September 17, 2008 (Wednesday)
	TTh Classes	September 18, 2008 (Thursday)
	Saturday Classes	September 20, 2008
	Sunday Classes	September 21, 2008
Last Day of Instruction:	December 12, 2008	

This schedule is subject to change. For more information please contact the ABE Office at 234-5498 Ext. 1723 or 1724

This advertisement was paid for from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

Quitugua hurdles basic Air Force training

Justo A. Quitugua, a graduate from Kagman High School, has completed the six and a half weeks of Basic Military Training in the Air Force at Lackland Airforce Base in San Antonio, Texas.

Quitugua

He graduated with 592 other recruits on June 13, 2008. He is with the 320th Training Squadron.

His proud parents, Rep. Justo S. Quitugua and Jackie, were in attendance during the graduation ceremony.

Airman Quitugua, who was only 17 years old when he enlisted, is now attending technical school at Shephard Air Force Base in Texas. After completing tech school, he will likely be stationed in Japan.

The BMT covers physical training program in preparation of physical rigor of military duty; discipline, which builds on the skills and training developed during the first week; structure, which covers training guidance in the areas of order, heritage, structure; and field training exercises, which puts the skills and knowledge learned to ultimate use.

The final stage of training is largely in the classroom setting, learning the moral and ethical standards of the U.S Air Force. During this time a final exam is conducted to earn the honor of being called an Airman. ***(PR)***

LABORING

From Page 1

While the average retirement age remains 63, that standard may soon be going the way of the gold watch - a trend expected to accelerate as baby boomers close in on retirement without sufficient savings.

For 64-year-old John Lee, "retirement" bears a strong resemblance to his full-time working career - full of 40- and 50-hour weeks as an IT technical support specialist. He's not strapped but likes the extra cash and the feeling of being needed.

But for Melissa Fodor, a retired travel agent who works part-time as a caregiver for the elderly, the extra work "keeps my head above water" and there's no end in sight to that financial need at age 68.

Although the work is satisfying, she confides that "financially I'm kind of scared most of the time. Because what should happen if my health and my body fail?"

■■■

Growing evidence documents that people are working longer as they live longer.

Twenty-nine percent of people in their late 60s were working in 2006, up from 18 percent in 1985, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nearly 6 million workers last year were 65 or over.

Over the next decade, the number of 55-and-up workers is expected to rise at more than five times the rate of the overall work force, the BLS reported.

A slowing economy and stock market, squeezing funds set aside for retirement, also are contributing.

In an April survey conducted for AARP, 27 percent of workers age 45 and over, and 32 percent of those 55-64 said they had pushed back their planned retirement date because of the economic downturn. The telephone poll by Woelfel Research interviewed 1,002 respondents and carried a sampling error margin of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

"We have people who are healthier, who are living longer and have more economic reasons to stay in the work force," said David Certner, AARP's legislative policy director. "On the employer side, you have greater demand for experienced (older) workers. That all adds up to longer work lives."

■■■

Lee never envisioned putting in long work weeks in his mid-60s.

The Marietta, Ga., resident battled frequent work stress before taking early retirement from Coca-Cola Co. at 55. He lay wide awake for many restless nights thinking about the job, and believes all the strain caused health problems in the form of fibromyalgia and chronic back pain.

But when his old employer called offering contract work at his specialty, mainframe systems, he gladly accepted. Tennis and golf hadn't worked out as retirement hobbies, and he decided he could use the money for occasional trips overseas and to help out his children and grandchildren.

"Going back to work wasn't the plan," he said. "But after I retired, before they called me, I really didn't have anything to do. So when they called, I jumped on it."

Lee, who makes more than $50,000 from the contract work, isn't the only one in his house working after retirement. His wife Joyce, 60, also took early retirement but went right back to work as a real estate agent.

They say the extra household income supplements their combined $3,000 a month in company pension payments and adds to $1.3 million in assets to assure their retirement will be financially comfortable - if and when it happens.

"If there's some project to be done next year, when they call I'll just go do it," he chuckled.

■■■

Working longer is generally the best option for those who come up short on retirement savings. And with many people's investment portfolios and 401(k)s down significantly in recent months, it has become a compelling alternative for many retirees or near-retirees to having to live on less.

"It's always been a good idea, but right now it can be an especially good idea," said Christine Fahlund, a senior financial planner with T. Rowe Price. "You really don't want to be pulling more money out of a portfolio that's already down."

In a recent report, the investment management group said continuing to work full time past one's anticipated retirement date could increase annual retirement income by about 7 percent for each additional year of work.

Working another three years - from 62 to 65, for example - and continuing to save 15 percent of salary could raise annual income from investments by 22 percent. Make it five years and boost savings contributions still higher - even better.

Putting off retirement also may enable people to delay when they start taking Social Security benefits, which can significantly increase payments.

"The longer the delay, the better" financially, said Fahlund. "To me the ideal would be 70, because you get the biggest Social Security benefit possible and all those additional years of employment. And it keeps you going mentally and physically too."

If toiling extra years doesn't sound very palatable, a wanna-be retiree may wish to consider spending some of the additional work earnings on hobbies, travel, education or other retirement dreams to make it seem more worthwhile.

"Delaying retirement retirement does not necessarily mean delaying gratification," Fahlund said.

Such a strategy, she said, could still increase retirement income from investments by 4 percent per year, or 12 percent after three years, since the retiree would not have to tap existing savings.

■■■

Fodor says that "to work is to have dignity." But she has little choice but to keep laboring because otherwise she couldn't pay her bills.

The Morrison, Colo., woman ended her more than three-decade career as a travel agent when work dried up following the 9/11 attacks, but hasn't stopped working through her 60s. First she sold paint at a home improvement store for seven years. Now she puts in 17 hours a week as a certified nursing assistant and another 10 to 15 hours walking dogs and pet sitting.

Divorced and with no children, she says she will have to work "forever" to make up for a lack of savings since Social Security doesn't go far enough to make ends meet.

Caring for seniors, a job she loves, pays just $9 an hour and dog walking pays less. Squeezed by rising prices and still $20,000 in debt on her condo, she stopped buying meat, beer and pricier vegetables and cheeses this year and is making other cutbacks.

"I feel blessed with the good health that I have. But I'm a little bit bitter because I don't think I should be scared financially at 68," she said, adding that she blames only herself for not saving more.

What disturbs her more than her situation, though, is that of all the men in their 60s, 70s and even 80s she worked with at Lowe's.

After losing their jobs as engineers and scientists, they now stock shelves just to survive. But they hide when fellow retirees come in, she said, because they don't want people they knew from their country clubs and higher-income jobs to see them.

When people work out of desperation and not choice, in other words, it carries little dignity.

"That's just not right," she said. "That hurts me to see that. Some of these people are supporting their grandchildren."

ERRATUM

In the story "Woman files complaint vs Labor personnel" that was published in the Aug. 27, 2008, edition of the *Saipan Tribune,* the paper mistakenly identified the complainant, Gina H. Santos, as a guest worker. She is, in fact, a U.S. citizen. Our apologies.

CAR

From Page 1

Witnesses said two Asian looking guys alighted from the massively wrecked Toyota Siena with plate number ABP 479, including the driver who they said was badly hurt. The other passenger immediately ran limping to a nearby store, apparently to call for help.

Rescuers and police arrived minutes after the freak accident to direct traffic.

The electric post was cut into pieces, with the upper part including the highway lighting still hanging by the power lines.

A crew from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said it would take about two hours to fix the power lines in the affected area.

The accident happened right in front of the offices of the Department of Public Works, Saipan Cell Communications and Pizza Hut.

One witness who works at a private company near the area said he heard a loud screech, followed by a louder bang. He immediately went outside and saw the wrecked Toyota van.

He said the car was northbound. Other witnesses said the car twisted before it slammed into the post.

Police have yet to issue a report of the accident, which compounded woes for some business establishments in the area that are already heavily affected by the power crisis.

NMI

From Page 1

Pew Charitable Trust.

Last Monday, Bush proposed protecting three remote island chains, including the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposal aims to designate a 115,000 square mile section of ocean in the CNMI's northernmost waters as a national marine monument. It will cover three islands: Uracas, Maug, and Asuncion. It would be the largest ocean conservation effort in history.

Saipan Gov. Benigno R. Fitial says his government is capable of managing, developing and protecting the waters without the federal government or a nonprofit organization.

A local environmental group, however, has welcomed plans to consider parts of the Pacific Ocean marine sanctuaries or monuments.

Ignacio Cabrera, the chairman of Saipan-based Friends of the Marine Monument said in a letter to the editor that the move is "a positive step."

"There's a lot of opportunity, especially for our youth to learn more of our natural resources that we have here in the Commonwealth, especially these three islands up north," he said.

Also, in a newly released scientific report, backers of proposal say the region is increasingly under threat from human activity and ecological changes.

The report from the Pew Charitable Trust contains a warning from Dr. Rusty Brainard, an oceanographer with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, that the remoteness of the area around the islands of Maug, Uracus and Asuncion will not protect them.

Dr. Brainard says the area is only a day away by boat from Saipan and it would be easy to significantly exploit them."

The report also says the area contains 19 species of whales and dolphins, including some of the world's rarest species of beaked whales.

It also has the greatest diversity of seamount and hydrothermal vent life yet seen on the planet.

19 MWS

From Page 1

tinue to run.

It takes about 41 megawatts to power the entire island of Saipan. This means a deficit of about 22 megawatts.

CUC employees have been working 16-hour days, attempting to get the other engines at Power Plant 1 running, Muña said. Engine 8 was running for a few hours but encountered problems with water leaks.

"[Engine 8 was] up for just a few hours. At one point, it had four megawatts, but unfortunately, it went down again," he said. Muña said he hopes the engine would be operational by the end of the evening yesterday.

Employees are hoping to have engine 3 running soon as well, he said. But engine 2 won't be in operation until the end of the week.

On Friday, CUC announced a new two-engine load shedding schedule with three-hour outages rotated across the island three times in a 24-hour period. This equates to a total of nine-hour outages daily.

CUC, however, failed to follow the schedule.

Muna said the agency is not able to follow the schedule when only one engine at Power Plant 1 is operating. The outages are longer and more extensive with just one engine running.

CUC is focusing on providing the airport with 24-hour power and providing the Garapan tourist district with power in the afternoon and evening, leaving CUC with "very little to work with" for the rest of the island, Muna said.

CUC employees have also tried to provide more power to feeder 1, where Isley Field is located. Isley Field houses 45 percent of water wells on Saipan, producing about 50 percent of the water on island, Bruce Megarr, deputy director for the Water and Sewer Division at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., said Saturday.

Aggreko generators are expected to start running by mid-September, providing an additional 15 to 18 megawatts of power to the island.

Bill seeks cure for jury system's 'inconsistency'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Floor Leader Joseph James N. Camacho has introduced a bill that seeks to clarify an inconsistency with CNMI's jury system.

Camacho's House Bill 16-148 requires that all charges in the same court proceeding be submitted to the jury when one charge entitles a defendant to a jury trial.

He said it is necessary to remove inconsistent verdicts when a jury hears felony charges and the judge hears misdemeanor charges in a case arising out of the same events or transactions.

At present, a jury hears the case on felony charges. Felonies are crimes that are punishable with imprisonment of more than one year.

Also, a judge hears the case on misdemeanor charges. Misdemeanors are crimes that are punishable with imprisonment of less than one year.

Camacho

Camacho told *Saipan Tribune* that often, when a case has both felony and misdemeanor charges, the jury and the judge arrive at inconsistent verdicts.

"For example, the jury can find a person not guilty on murder but the judge will find the person guilty of assault and battery," said Camacho, who is a lawyer.

He said it is the intention of his bill to mandate that when a jury is already impaneled, the jury shall hear all of the felony and misdemeanor charges.

The lawmaker emphasized that there is no additional cost or expense since the jury is already sitting to hear the felony charges.

In the bill, Camacho underscored the importance of removing the inconsistency of entrusting a jury to deliberate on serious felony charges yet minor misdemeanor charges are handled by the judge.

"It is a matter of policy that juries are the true and proper body to deliberate on a defendant's guilt or innocence. It is a matter of public policy that the people when acting as juries are the true and proper measure of the community's norms, mores and standard," he said.

Under the legislation, " any person accused by information of committing a felony punishable by more than five years imprisonment or by more than $2,000 fine, or both, shall be entitled to a trial by a jury of six persons."

The bill provides that when trial by jury is required on one count, the right shall extend to all counts in the information.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants from the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities, Public School System, and the CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities pose with Eleri Hanley from the Crick Software Company after the three-day training at the Aqua Resort Club.

Children's software ace holds 2-day workshop for teachers

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The use of software among school children has become an important tool in students' developmental stage. In recognition of this, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities brought in an expert to train teachers on how to use certain computer programs that would assist students in enhancing their reading, writing and learning skills.

Eleri Hanley from the England-based Crick Software Company just finished conducting the seminar from Aug. 28 to 29 at the Aqua Resort Club.

Part of the three-day activity was a demonstration and display of assistive technologies for people with disabilities on Aug. 30, attended by parents and some members of the community.

Hanley explained that the Crick Software is an educational software company for children of all abilities.

"It's not just for those with special needs or with disabilities," Hanley said.

Through the use of multimedia, teachers would be able to help children easily absorb concepts or ideas.

She said their products are now being used and are in great demand in the United States, Canada, and around the world.

The training was jointly participated by the CNMI Council on Development Disabilities, Public School System and the CNMI Association of Families with Disabilities.

Coordinator for the three-day activity was Pam Sablan from the Assistive Technology Act Program for the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities.

The purpose of the AT Fair was to demonstrate and inform the CNMI community of assistive technology devices and software that are available for individuals with print and learning disabilities.

Crick Software products include Clicker 5, Clicker paint, ClozePro, Wordbar, Penfriend and Write Online.

PSS JIT members presented Braille Assistive Technology Devices and Software, Braille Writing Devices and Notetakers, Print Disabilities/Learning disabilities Assistive Technology Devices and Software.

EMO adviser: Terrorism is major concern in disaster preparedness

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It is not just about tsunamis, storms, pandemic flu and other contagious diseases. The threat of international terrorism is also one of the major aspects in disaster preparedness, according to the new adviser for the CNMI Emergency Management Office.

Dr. Ken Shankweiler says all members of the community, including businesses, workers and families, must be aware of the dangers posed by terrorist attacks.

Shankweiler said one could never predict with precision when terrorists will strike but a strong partnership between government and the private sector in disaster preparedness could make a big difference.

"We want businesses a vital part of it because in the past only the government agencies are involved," said Shankweiler said that EMO is preparing several activities in connection with the Disaster Preparedness Month this month.

He said that it is no longer the work of just the Division of Public Safety or the EMO or airport personnel; "disaster preparedness needs a coordinated effort."

However, compared to the U.S. mainland, the CNMI has done a better job in disaster preparedness and prevention due to a simpler system, he said.

He pointed out that too much bureaucracy makes the U.S. disaster preparedness and response systems more difficult to handle.

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP08-OPA-089
Submission Date: September 11, 2008 • Time: 4:00 p.m.

"TO PERFORM A SINGLE AUDIT OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT FOR THE FISCAL YEARS ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008, 2009 AND 2010"

Copies of the RFP package may be obtained from the office of the Director of Procurement and supply office in lowerbase during regular working hours. Inquiries may be directed to Rosauro C. Zapanta, Audit Manager, at the OPA (670) 322-6481/6482 or by fax at (670) 322-7812.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

/s/ MICHAEL PAI
Acting, Public Auditor

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB08-OPA-093
Submission/Opening Date: September 11, 2008 • Time: 11:00 a.m.

"PURCHASE OF A NETWORK SERVER FOR THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR"

Copies of the specification of work may be picked-up at the office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan during regular working hours.

Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the ITB if preference is claimed.

/s/ MICHAEL PAI
Acting, Public Auditor

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

ANNUAL SCREENING

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Muslims in CNMI start observing Ramadan

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Muslims in the CMNI started yesterday their month-long observance of Ramadan at their prayer center in Garapan.

Monwar Hossain, the acknowledged leader of the Saipan Baitus Salam Jame Masjid, said they have been doing the rituals here since 1982.

There are currently around 500 Muslims working or living in the CNMI.

Hossain said they come from different countries in Asia, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Malaysia, China, Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia.

Ramadan is a religious observance that takes place during the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, believed to be the month in which the Qu'ran was revealed to the Archangel Gabriel, who later revealed it to the Prophet Muhammad.

During this month of fasting, Muslims don't eat or drink from dawn until sunset.

This religious rite is meant to teach Muslims to be patient and peaceful.

"My message is that we want to pray for peace for all people," Hossain said.

The Burning Bush rules Saipan Summer Jam

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Burning Bush, a roots reggae band, performs on stage during *Beach Road Magazine*'s Saipan Summer Jam held on Aug. 24 at Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V. The group won first place.

Beach Road Magazine's Saipan Summer Jam was a smash hit, held at a jam-packed venue where 10 bands took turns playing songs—from contemporary hits to 70s rock 'n roll, and roots reggae—to the delight of the crowd which, at various points, sang along or danced.

"What the Saipan Summer Jam showed is that there's so much talent waiting to be discovered on island. We're happy that Glimpses and *Beach Road Magazine* had a hand in showcasing those talents," Susan Marchitti, *Beach Road Magazine* account manager said.

The Burning Bush, a five-member reggae group, won first place and brought home $250 worth of prizes—$150 cash and $100 worth of Shell gas coupons.

High Pitch, an all-Filipino band whose members include a carpenter, a heavy equipment operator and aircon technicians bagged the second place, winning $75 worth of Shell gas coupons, a PC Outlet games software and a T-shirt by Boarderline.

Third place went to Frozen Nipple, which took with them $50 worth of Shell gas coupons. The group, whose members hit the stage in black shirts and pants and white neck ties, also won a PC Outlet games software and a T-shirt from Boarderline.

The three bands were scheduled to perform at Palms Resort Saipan's "Back-to-School" Summer Bash on Saturday, Aug. 30.

The rest of the seven other bands also received prizes.

The five-hour event, held on Aug. 24 at Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V, was also highlighted by an added attraction: the Big Beats who played for free in support of the participating musicians, and whose performance sent the event's emcee Brad Ruszala, PTI marketing associate and data manager, to the stage doing his rendition of Chuck Berry's "Go Johnny Go" with the band.

The other bands that joined Saipan Summer Jam were D is for Dangerous, which landed fourth place; Fritada, fifth; Rated R, also an all-Filipino band which won sixth place and the texters' choice award; Channel B, seventh; Past & Present, eighth; Project X, ninth; and J2, tenth.

The panel of judges was composed of Harry Blalock, KZMI general manager; Rick Jones, 360 Restaurant general manager; and Power '99 disc jock LJ Castro, who stood in for Tina Palacios, SMG station manager.

Saipan Summer Jam was sponsored by Coca-Cola Beverage Co. (Micronesia) Inc., PTI, Northern Marianas College, and Budget Car Rental. Prize partners included Shell Marianas, Foremost, Subway, Boarderline, PC Outlet, Taro Sue and Mariana Trench Monument. ***(PR)***

Coordinators needed for 'Take the Right Route'

Anyone wants to reduce their carbon footprint?

Join the second edition of the "Take the Right Route" Day on Oct. 10.

You can choose how to participate: run, walk, bike or carpool to work or school.

You can also volunteer to become a coordinator for your group or organization.

The Energy Division of the Department of Public Works will be spearheading this one-day fun and activity as part of celebrations for Energy Awareness Month next month.

The final day of submission of the list of participants is on Oct. 6.

In a memorandum to all department and activity heads, Energy Division director Thelma B. Inos noted that all those who become a coordinator would receive an "appreciation package."

All participants would get a pair of "Walk It, Don't Drive It" slippers or a water bottle with lanyard or key chain.

Interested coordinators may contact Lauren Sanchez or Noberto Mendiola at 664-4480/1 for more information. ***(Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)***

SUMMER BASH FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Children race across the pool to get the numbered balls during one of the many games in the Back-To-School Summer Bash at Palms Resort Saipan on Saturday. The fun-filled event attracted hundreds of local students on Saipan.

The Singing V at Club V starts tonight

Saipan Grand Hotel is coming up with another first: the first singing game show in the CNMI, inspired by the popular TFC show Singing Bee.

"Singing V @ Club V" will run for 12 weeks every Tuesday. Doors will open at 8:30pm and the game show will start at 9:15pm and will run for 45 minutes. The regular party follows after.

The evening party is also called Tuesday Barkada Night with San Miguel Beer. Early partygoers from 8:30pm until 11pm will get two complimentary drinks and free chaser.

"The Singing V @ Club V" is also sponsored by Saipan Cell Communications, Shell, and Macatangay Dermhealth Clinic.

Weekly winners will have a chance to win a total of $350 worth of in-kind and cash prizes from sponsors.

To join the contest, just text NAME, AGE and OCCUPATION and sent it to 25828 or CLUB V. Six contestants will be coming from the Saipan Cell texters and four will be from the crowd. Ten texters will also get free Club V cover.

There will be four rounds. First round will be the 10 contestants competing to be the final four who got the correct lyrics of the song. Round 2 will be the final four competing to be the two finalists. The contestant on this round needs to sing two required lines of the song. Round three for the two finalists needs to sing three lines of the song. Winner for this round becomes the challenger who will compete with the depending champion.

Singing V at Club V is also sponsored by KWAW. For inquiries, call 2856616. ***(PR)***

Young humpback washes ashore in Cooks

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands (Cook Islands News/PIR)—A baby humpback whale that washed up on the reef of the outer island of Mauke has been treated by its residents as a gift from the sea.

The humpback was found by Nooapii Tangaroa at Akapa, near Angataura, a landing at Mauke, on the northern side of the island.

According to his cousin Jean Mason, the whale was discovered on Tuesday, Aug. 12. Measuring about eight meters in length, the whale is believed to have been in a pod of six with five adults that had hung around the island for a couple of weeks.

Unfortunately, the whale was dead by the time Tangaroa stumbled upon it at about 7am on the day of discovery.

Mason says that Maukeans treat whale standings as a gift from the sea. They never traditionally hunted whale but when one washed up it was a community event in that it required the whole population to help carve it up and take it away.

The meat is used for food and preparation involves drying it out in the sun. Today it is still sun-dried first before it is bagged for freezing. The flesh can keep well for up to four days and when cooked it looks like beef.

Every part of the animal is used. The blubber is boiled up for pigs to eat. Bone is used for carving fishhooks. The vertebra is used as seats for coconut graters.

Mason says that Tangaroa thinks he was the first to find the whale and calculates it had been dead for about eight hours because he had been on that side of the island the day before and had seen it frolicking around its mother.

Tangaroa told his father Kairae, a local fisherman, and he and other fishermen went to that side of the island, to help carve up the whale.

Mason says it's not the first whale stranding in recent times. Apparently a large male humpback beached itself on the eastern side of the island around Arapaea in 1982-83. Mason says that according to Kairae, that particular whale was so large it was taller than a house. The men used ladders to climb up on the whale in order to carve it, using axes and chainsaws and it took about three to four days to completely dismember it.

Benigno Sablan re-appointed to Wespac

The U.S. Commerce Department announced yesterday the re-appointment of Benigno M. Sablan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council.

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional bodies established by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act that prepare fishery management plans for marine fish stocks in their respective geographic areas of responsibility. NOAA's Fisheries Service submits the management plans to the Secretary of Commerce for review and approval.

Sablan, who has a degree in fisheries science, served for three consecutive terms as a member of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands House of Representatives, was former secretary for the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources, and was an elementary school teacher. Under this appointment, he will serve on the council until Aug. 10, 2011.

Council members represent diverse fisheries' interests, including commercial and recreational fisheries. They bring environmental, academic, and other perspectives from each geographic area to the councils. The Secretary of Commerce appoints council members from nominations submitted by governors from the areas served by each council.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages the nation's coastal and marine resources. ***(NOAA)***

$100 WINNER CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shela Marie Castilio shows off the winning cap that won her $100 in Pepsi's Twist and Win summer promotion. She is shown here claiming her prize at the Pacific Trading Co. office in Puerto Rico.

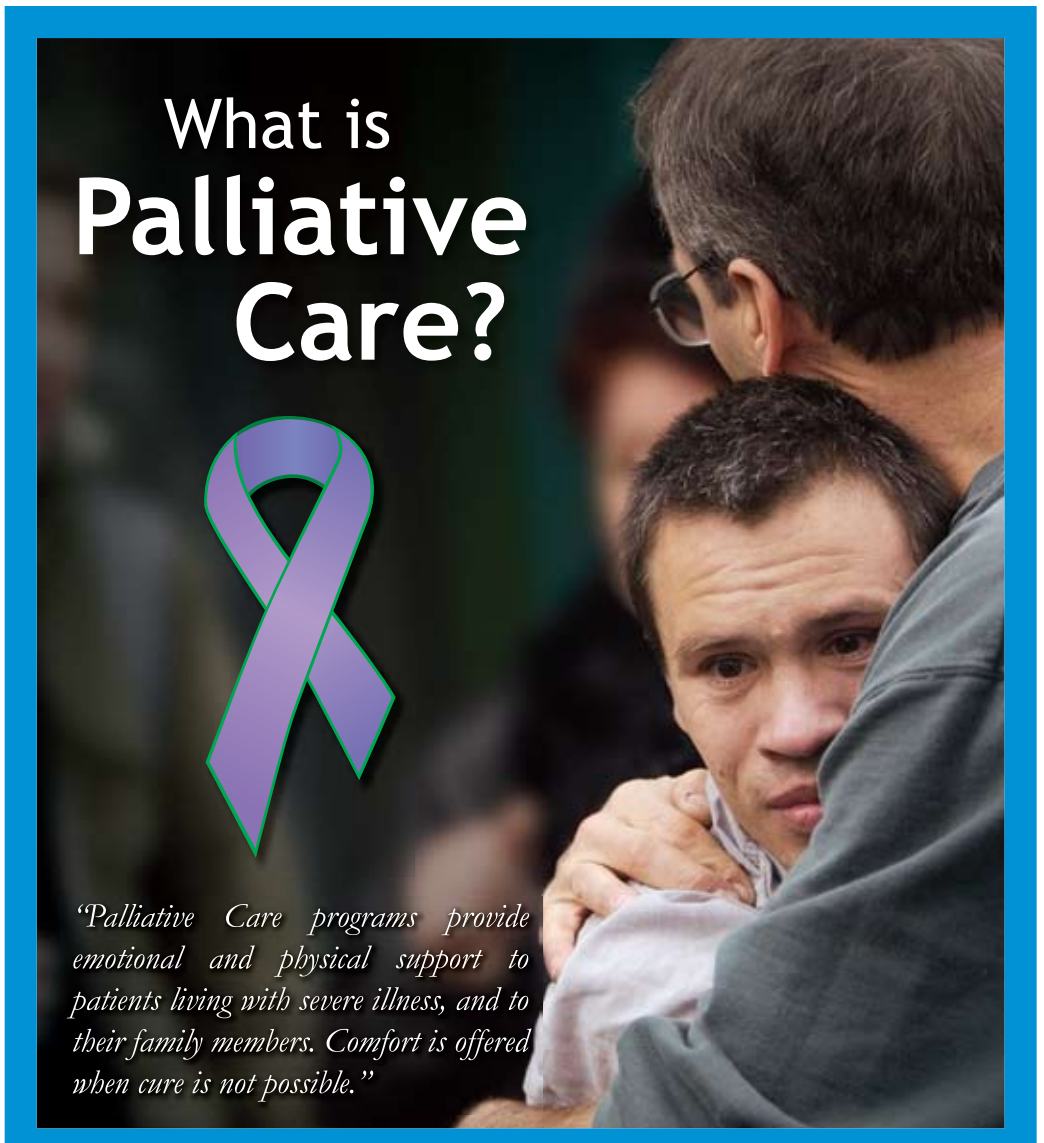
Guam governor tapped to lead McCain's Pacific fundraisers

GUAM—Governor Felix Camacho has been appointed to serve as the Chairman for the John McCain Campaign in the U.S. Pacific Territories. The announcement was made by the Arizona Senator's camp today. Camacho will be tasked to lead all of the fundraising and political advocacy efforts on Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The position comes with big responsibilities.

"The leadership of Governor Camacho and his voice representing the more than 900,000 Pacific Islanders in the Islands and across the United States will make the difference in winning key battleground states and the White House this November," McCain said.

The presumptive nominee for the Republican Party has nothing but confidence in the titular party head for the island. "Governor Camacho has been a leading advocate in Washington, D.C., and across the Pacific Rim on the increased role that Guam plays in the Pacific and has led efforts with civilian and military planners that will forever transform the Western Pacific and military forces in Asia while also maintaining a high quality of life for all residents and military personnel alike."

Camacho will also serve as a National Defense surrogate during the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota. ***(Phillip Leon Guerrero/ Pacific News Center)***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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING

Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995

OVERSTAYERS REPORT
August 26, 2008, first publication
September 2, 2008, second publication

Notice is hereby given that according to the records maintained by the Commonwealth, as of June 30, 2008, the following persons have overstayed the permission granted upon their entry to the Commonwealth. Persons in an overstayer status are required to depart the Commonwealth immediately.

Persons who have overstayed but who leave the Commonwealth voluntarily are eligible to return to the Commonwealth and may apply for jobs via the Department of Labor website from overseas. Persons who have been notified of their overstayer status and do not depart voluntarily are subject to arrest by the Immigration Division and deportation, in which case they may not ever again enter the Commonwealth. This rule is the same in the U.S.

Permissions granted upon entry may have been extended or the entry status may be changed under a number of different provisions of Commonwealth law, but all extensions and changes must be documented and the applicable fees paid. If the necessary applications and supporting documents have not been correctly completed or filed or recorded, a name may appear in overstayer status although upon completion or recording of the necessary documentation an extension will be granted.

If your name is on the list set out below and you have or should have a current permission or a current status allowing you to be in the Commonwealth, please report to Evelyn Sablan, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Labor, Department of Labor, second floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio before September 30, 2008 to correct the records.

Name	Citizen	Name	Citizen	Name	Citizen
ABAGA, GENER C.	PHL	LIN, CHUN MEI	CHN	RAJAPPA, ANANDANARAYANAN	IND
ABAN, BERNARDO JR. R.	PHL	LIN, HAISHU	CHN	REDIMO, OFELIA OLAVARIO	PHL
ANGELES, BENJAMIN C.	PHL	LIN, JINPING	CHN	ROSAS, PRISCILLA ABUAN	PHL
BARUA, MARISA MACAYAN	PHL	LIN, QINGFAN	CHN	RUTOR, THANDY VILLANUEVA	PHL
BAUTISTA, ROSANNA P.	PHL	LIN, YONG	CHN	SALAZAR, JULIANA CONDE	PHL
BRIONES, MAY V.	PHL	LIU, GUI HUA	CHN	SANCHEZ, JOSEPHINE S.	PHL
BUCU, MA VICTORIA DELA CRUZ,	PHL	LIU, HAIYUN	CHN	SANTIAGO, MA THERESA	PHL
CAIREL, IMELDA BANO	PHL	LONTHAISONG, RADDA	THA	SAPITIN, CARMELITA C.	PHL
CAJIS, OLIVIA TOTANES	PHL	LU, GUANGPING	CHN	SHEN, CHENGNAN	CHN
CALACSAN, PATERNO REYES	PHL	LU, HONG MEI	CHN	SHIDA, YASUE	JPN
CAO, TINGWEI	CHN	LU, JIANGUO	CHN	SIBUG, CONRADO JR. MANALO	PHL
CAPATI, FIDEL MARTINEZ	PHL	LU, JIN	CHN	SONG, GUOPING	CHN
CASA, ELPIDIO JR. TANGLAO	PHL	LU, YINXIANG	CHN	SONG, YUPING	CHN
CAUSON, RUEL D. B.	PHL	LU, YUAN	CHN	SU, YUCONG	CHN
CHEN, JUNQING	CHN	LUAT, ARMANDO GILE	PHL	TEJADA, ALFREDO PASCUAL	PHL
CHEN, XINQU	CHN	MALAPITAN, HERMINIANO JR. A.	PHL	VALERIO, PEDRO H.	PHL
DADOY, RENATO ABAD	PHL	MALUYO, MEDARDO SANCHEZ	PHL	VALIENTE, ROBERT DOMINGUEZ	PHL
DAET, RUFINA OSTONAL	PHL	MANEEBOO, YAOWATIDA	THA	VELLASAMY, MUTHU	IND
DAI, GUOSHU	CHN	MANGULABNAN, LEO M.	PHL	VILLAREAL, ZENAIDA M.	PHL
DARAG, MELBA BADAL	PHL	MARTINEZ, CRISPIN L.	PHL	VILLAVICENCIO, JOANNA D.	PHL
DASMARINAS, NATHALIE LIMBO	PHL	MATIAS, LANIE B.	PHL	WANG, WEN JUAN	CHN
DE CHAVEZ, FLORENCIA BAES	PHL	MAURICIO, TERESITA F.	PHL	WANG, YAN	CHN
DE GUIA, LUCILA H.	PHL	MEN, CHEN TECK	MYS	WANG, ZHENG YUE	CHN
DE LARA, MERCEDITA AGUILAR	PHL	MENDOZA, REYNALDO M.	PHL	WEI, WEI	CHN
DELA CRUZ, JOHNSON C.	PHL	MENG, ZHAOHONG	CHN	WU, YUEQIN	CHN
DELAS ALAS, ALEXANDER DE CASTRO	PHL	MESA, ANITA AQUINO	PHL	XIAO, YANGYANG	CHN
DEOCARES, IMELDA ESTOLAS	PHL	MONTOYA, JOVIN BONDOC	PHL	XIE, LINGLING	CHN
DINGSON, FERDINAND LUBIANO	PHL	MUNEZ, ELNORA CAFE	PHL	XIE, XIAOQING	CHN
DOMINGUEZ, MIRIAM VILLANUEVA	PHL	NITRO, GREGORIO MANDOCDOC	PHL	XU, SHEN MIN	CHN
DUMAOANG, JEAN D.	PHL	NOCHE, CRISANTA C.	PHL	XU, XIANG	CHN
EDRIS	BGD	OCAMPO, JULIE CHRISTINE ROSAS	PHL	XU, XIONGJIE	CHN
FLORES, CLARIBEL LANNU	PHL	OTSUKA, MASATOSHI	JPN	YAN, XIAOYAN	CHN
GALUTERA, MARGIE DELEON	PHL	PAN, JINHUA	CHN	YIN, GUOLIAN	CHN
GANIA, ULYSSES EVANGELISTA	PHL	PANG, SHUANG	CHN	YU, JUAN	CHN
GU, JIANHUA	CHN	PARALLAG, BENITA M.	PHL	YU, YANLONG	CHN
GUCILATAR, PEDRO RUTAS	PHL	PARAN, ROSEMARIE ERAL	PHL	ZENG, XIAOBO	CHN
GUEVARRA, EDWIN M.	PHL	PARK, KOUN SOUK	KOR	ZHANG, CHANGFENG	CHN
GUTIERREZ, ARNEL C.	PHL	PASCUA, MA. SONIA L.	PHL	ZHANG, LIQIN	CHN
JAVIER, AMALIA ESGUERRA	PHL	PASCUAL, MILAGROS	PHL	ZHANG, PING	CHN
JIN, HAO	CHN	PENAFIEL, ALEXIS C.	PHL	ZHANG, TINGTING	CHN
KEONG, YEE CHEE	SGP	PEPITO, JEANETTE S.	PHL	ZHANG, XIAO YAN	CHN
KIM, KWHANG HO	KOR	PUNO, ARNULFO S.	PHL	ZHOU, XIAOMIN	CHN
LEGUA, BONIFACIO A.	PHL	QIU, GUANGMAN	CHN	ZHOU, YINCHENG	CHN
LI, DONGJI	CHN	QIU, SHUMEI	CHN	ZHU, GUOZHONG	CHN
LIAN, SHENG	CHN	RAENGKHRUT, KAWINTHIP	THA		

Tonga lifts state of emergency

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Tonga's leading people's representative, Akilisi Pohiva, has welcomed the lifting of the emergency regulations in the kingdom.

The state of emergency was imposed across the kingdom in November 2006 after much of the centre of the capital Nuku'alofa was destroyed when violence erupted during demonstrations in support of democratic reforms.

It had been renewed on a monthly basis but restricted to the centre of the capital.

Certain restrictions had been in effect in the nation's capital, Nukualofa, since the November 2006 riots that destroyed much of the business district.

The prime minister's advisor, Lopeti Senituli, has confirmed that the emergency regulations have not been renewed.

However, the Tongan authorities have made no public announcement to that effect.

Mr Pohiva says he's happy about the development, but says it was expected.

"The government has been waiting until the end of the coronation ceremony. There was a fear on the part of government. It was very important for a smooth implementation of the coronation ceremony. We already completed that exercise, so there's no need for a further extension of the emergency law."

Akilisi Pohiva says government should publicly announce its decision.

Ten die in Fiji bus fire

36 hospitalized in tragedy

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—Villagers of Natokalau on Ovalau yesterday held a memorial church service to remember their relatives who perished in the tragic bus fire last week.

Ten people died while 36 were hospitalized when the bus they were traveling in caught fire at Navuevu near Sigatoka Town.

Village headman Maleli Dakoro said the service, which was held in the village hall, was led by the leaders of five different churches at Natokalau.

They included the Seventh Day Adventist, Every Home, Jehovah's Witness, Pentecostal, Catholic and the Methodist church.

He said the combined church service was conducted to pray for the families of those who died in the fire.

"We want to remember them in our prayers.

"To lose 10 lives in a day is disastrous but our prayers are with them," said Mr Dakoro.

All those who attended the service which started with the beating of the *lali*, wore black as a sign of respect.

Immediate family members of those who died presented flowers to the village elders as sign of respect.

Dakoro said villagers had already geared themselves for the funeral which would be one of the biggest ever on Ovalau.

"We have already built sheds, cut firewood and prepared the *yaqona* for the funeral gathering and we are waiting for the medical authorities to complete their work before the bodies are brought across."

He said the village was still reeling from the loss of so many lives. "It is so unfortunate and we would like to share the grief with the immediate family members.

"We feel for them."

PROCLAMATION SIGNING CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial signs a proclamation declaring the month of September as Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Awareness Month. The proclamation signing was held Friday at the Department of Public Health's conference room.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Arts festival costs A. Samoa $4 million

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The co-chairs of the Arts Festival Committee have presented a preliminary financial report to the American Samoa Senate. Fagafaga Daniel Langkilde said numbers may change but not significantly.

The festival's budget had been set at US$4.6 million an estimated shortfall of US$1.5 million. But actual spending based on the bills received is just under $4 million. Fagafaga estimated the outstanding payables at around $122,000. He told the Senate the actual shortfall should be much less than the original $1.5 million estimate. He said donations raised $616,000, much more than the estimated $280,000. And the food voucher program was also under budget. The committee plans to use any leftover money to show appreciation to some of the groups who, in the words of Committee chair, Senator Fiatauiaulava Sauni, " went that extra mile" for the festival.

Vanuatu candidate arrested during polls

PORT VILA (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—Vanuaaku Party's candidate for Tanna Constituency, Harry Iauko, was able to bail out his fellow VP contender for the Port Vila constituency, Lord Mayor, Paul Avock Hungai after police arrested and remanded him to a cell at the Police headquarters Sunday. Daily Post was told that Avock was released on a "police bail" after the Prosecutions Office failed to apply to the Magistrates Court to remand him for further investigations over allegations of bribery over the sale of public land at Fatumauru Bay. The arrest not only raises much speculation in Port Vila and Tanna but may reveal a plot by some senior VP politicians who allegedly wanted Iauko and Avock out of the picture in the wake of the coming polls. The two have pointed accusing finger at some of the old guards of the Vanua'aku Pati.

Solomons to tighten controls on Taiwan fund

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Solomon Islands parliament has overwhelmingly passed a private members motion to regulate the so-called Rural Constituency Development Fund. The motion had been presented by an opposition MP Patteson Oti who says this will ensure proper accountability of the funding. Oti says at the moment MPs are not required to produce a report on how they spend the money. The Rural Constituency Development Fund, which totals about US$7 million a year, comes from Taiwan. It puts about $143,000 in the hands of each of the 50 members of the Solomon Islands Parliament with little to no accounting and has been the source of much criticism, including allegations of corruption. Critics say the Solomons have little to show for the annual funding. He says the Fund has taken up so time of MPs who need to act as financial managers and not as legislators.

Airline Tonga struggles in red

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—Airline Tonga, one of the two airlines operating Tonga's domestic air service is facing financial problems, according to the Minister for Transport, Paul Karalus. He said that an urgent meeting was scheduled on August 29 but no one from Airline Tonga attended and they could not find anyone from Airline Tonga to elaborate on what was happening with the airline. Airline Tonga, one of two domestic air carriers in Tonga,

suspended service on Aug. 23, stranding a handful of passengers in Vava'u and Ha'apai. The Minister said that another meeting has been scheduled for this week. Meanwhile, Chatham Pacific has put on additional services to the outer islands to cater for Airline Tonga passengers who were affected by this sudden suspension.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

September 02, 1999

Guidelines for free trade zones OK'd

The proposed free trade zones in the Northern Marianas moved a step forward after the House of Representatives yesterday passed unanimously a measure providing the guidelines, including the creation of a government agency that will oversee the ambitious project. But the administration-backed legislation left open a plan to offer tax breaks and other incentives to potential foreign investors, citing the need to pass a separate measure that will deal with the financial component of the special economic sites.

New class schedule sparks dispute

The new class schedule for public schools on Tinian has sparked a dispute between the Public School System and Tinian teachers. PSS implemented this school year the Board of Education's decision to stretch the daily school hours at Tinian Junior High and Tinian High School from 7:30 am to 3:20 pm.

Teno eyes more belt-tightening

Due to continuous harsh economic conditions on the island, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is eyeing further cost-cutting measures he has put in place over the past 20 months to boost savings of the cash-strapped government and improve delivery of services to the community. "The austerity measures really help us because we were able to reduce all the unnecessary expenses and we have to continue providing the essential needs of the public," he said in an interview.

September 02, 2002

Babauta wants monthly trade missions to Japan

Buoyed by the success of his Tokyo trip, Gov. Juan N. Babauta is proposing to send a trade mission to Japan on a monthly basis to make regular follow-ups on the commitments that he has obtained in terms of getting more tourists and investors from Japan to the CNMI. Describing the trip as arguably the most successful trip that he has ever taken in his entire career as an elected official, Babauta yesterday said he is so encouraged that he feels the Commonwealth should have a delegationÑboth government and privateÑgoing to Japan on a regular basis.

Calvos: Fennell may be draining BoS of cash

Bank of Saipan receiver Randall T. Fennell may be draining the bank of cash through exorbitant payments to attorneys who have connections to him, prompting the Calvo shareholders to ask the local court to block the payments and appoint a special master that will investigate the billings. The Calvos' suspicions were raised in a pleading filed before the Superior Court Friday, through counsel Michael W. Dotts.

Labor Day goes on for workers

That about sums up the attitude of thousands of workers in the Commonwealth who celebrates Labor Day today a national holiday dedicated to the sweat and toil of workers from all sorts of professions. Hundreds of local and guest workers yesterday trooped to the pavilions along Beach Road, celebrating their day with activities such as tug-of-war, beauty pageants, karaoke singing contest and foods galore that had tables overflowing with food, drinks and beer.

September 02, 2003

NMI to ink asylum pact with DOI

Asylum seekers may finally be allowed to apply for a status in the CNMI as the government is now poised to sign an asylum agreement with the U.S. government. Gov. Juan N. Babauta, in an interview, said he is set to sign an asylum memorandum of agreement with the Department of the Interior this month.

Saipan dialysis center in jeopardy

The much-awaited construction of the supposed $10 million Saipan dialysis center may not be done on time due to a faulty design and the lack of money to rectify the problem, according to House committee on health and welfare chairman Rep. Benjamin Seman. "We discovered about it only recently, and it's upsetting because we've all expected that everything is in order," said Seman, who noted that the Legislature already reprogrammed the remaining funds from the project knowing that the contract award reached only $5.4 million.

PIC plays funky music with Palooza party

The Pacific Islands Club hosted the inaugural PIC Palooza Fundraising Event, a '70s costume party, on Saturday, Aug. 30, to benefit the social services group Karidat.

The event, which began at 7:30pm, was held at the Charley's Cabaret and included games, quizzes, raffle and dancing—all with a '70s theme, replete with oversized Afro wigs, neon-colored dresses, thigh-high boots and platform shoes, oversized sunglasses, and the ubiquitous bell bottoms.

PIC's Clubmates also got into the act, performing *Play That Funky Music* by Wild Cherry and Tina Turner's *Proud Mary*.

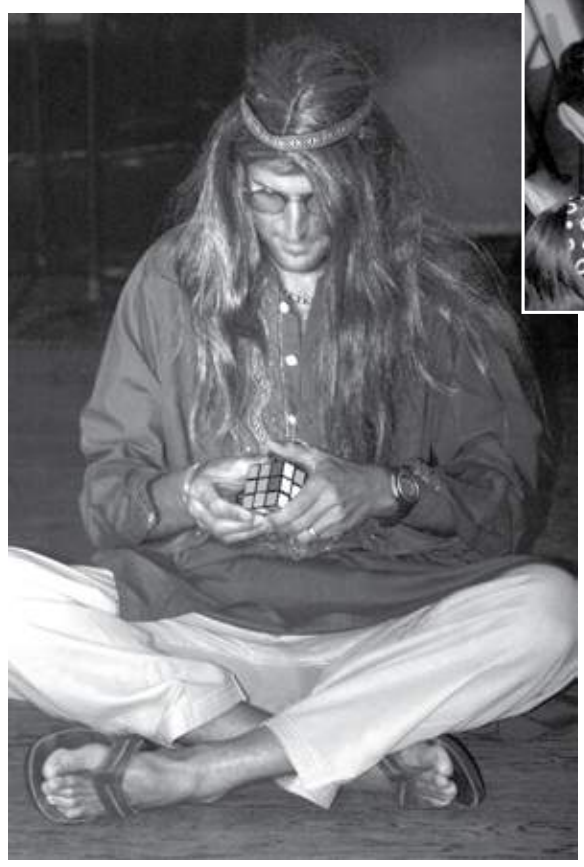
Here are some pictures from the event:

Liza, Orleyne, Paul, Andrew and Steve in their funky '70s attire during the inaugural PIC Palooza party at the Charley's Cabaret Saturday night.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PIC Clubmates entertain the crowd with a Led Zeppelin presentation.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A PIC Clubmate dances in front of guests during a special presentation.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

A Clubmate waves to the crowd with his big hair metal and glam rock look.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



Clad in hippie attire, Tice Mister tries to solve a Rubik's cube during one of the fun activities of the event.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Guests groove to 70s disco music.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Partygoers hit the dance floor with their fancy tie dye, bell bottoms, mini skirts and platform shoes.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PIC clubmates performing Tina Turner's *Proud Mary*.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

PIC Clubmates perform *Play That Funky Music* by Wild Cherry.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

McCain's choice

At first glance, there appears to be much to admire in Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska, Sen. John McCain's choice as his vice presidential running mate. Just 44 years old, she is a talented and upbeat person who excelled in basketball and beauty pageants, music and moose hunting. Since entering politics she has shown independence and a clear moral compass. On Alaska's oil and gas commission, she blew the whistle on a fellow Republican's conflict of interest. Her 2006 campaign for the state's highest office began as an insurrection against her party's old guard. In choosing her, McCain said that Palin's experience equips her to help "shake up Washington."

There is no surprise in the fact that Palin is a conservative on the issues that matter most to the Republican Party's base. She is an opponent of abortion and a particularly outspoken advocate of letting oil and gas companies drill on public lands—including Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a position that not even McCain, who favors offshore drilling, has embraced. But politically, McCain's choice was a stunner. He bypassed safer choices, such as Mitt Romney, the former governor of Massachusetts, and Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, in favor of a relative unknown.

Now McCain can say he is giving voters a chance to make history by electing the first woman to be vice president. He is also hoping Palin's down-to-earth "hockey mom" persona will appeal to those working-class Democrats, especially women, who voted for Sen. Hillary Clinton in the primary—though many supporters of abortion rights may be insulted by that proposition.

But the most important question McCain should have asked himself about Palin was not whether she could help him win the presidency. It was whether she is qualified and prepared to serve as president should anything prevent him from doing so. This would have been true for any presidential nominee, and it was especially crucial that McCain, 72, get this choice right. If he is elected, he will be the oldest man ever to serve a first term in the White House.

In this regard, count us among the puzzled and the skeptical. Not long ago, no less a Republican strategist than Karl Rove belittled Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine as a potential running mate for Barack Obama, noting that picking him would appear "intensely political" because Kaine's experience consisted of only three years as governor preceded by the mayoralty of Richmond, which Rove called "not a big town."

Using Rove's criteria, Palin would not fare well. Her executive experience consists of less than two years as governor of her sparsely populated state, plus six years as mayor of Wasilla (pop. 8,471). Absorbed in Alaska's unique energy and natural resource issues, she has barely been heard from in the broader national debates over economic policy and health care. Above all, she has no record on foreign policy and national security—including terrorism, which McCain posits as the top challenge facing America and the world. Once the buzz over Palin's nomination dies down, the hard questions about her will begin. The answers will reflect on her qualifications—and on McCain's judgment as well.

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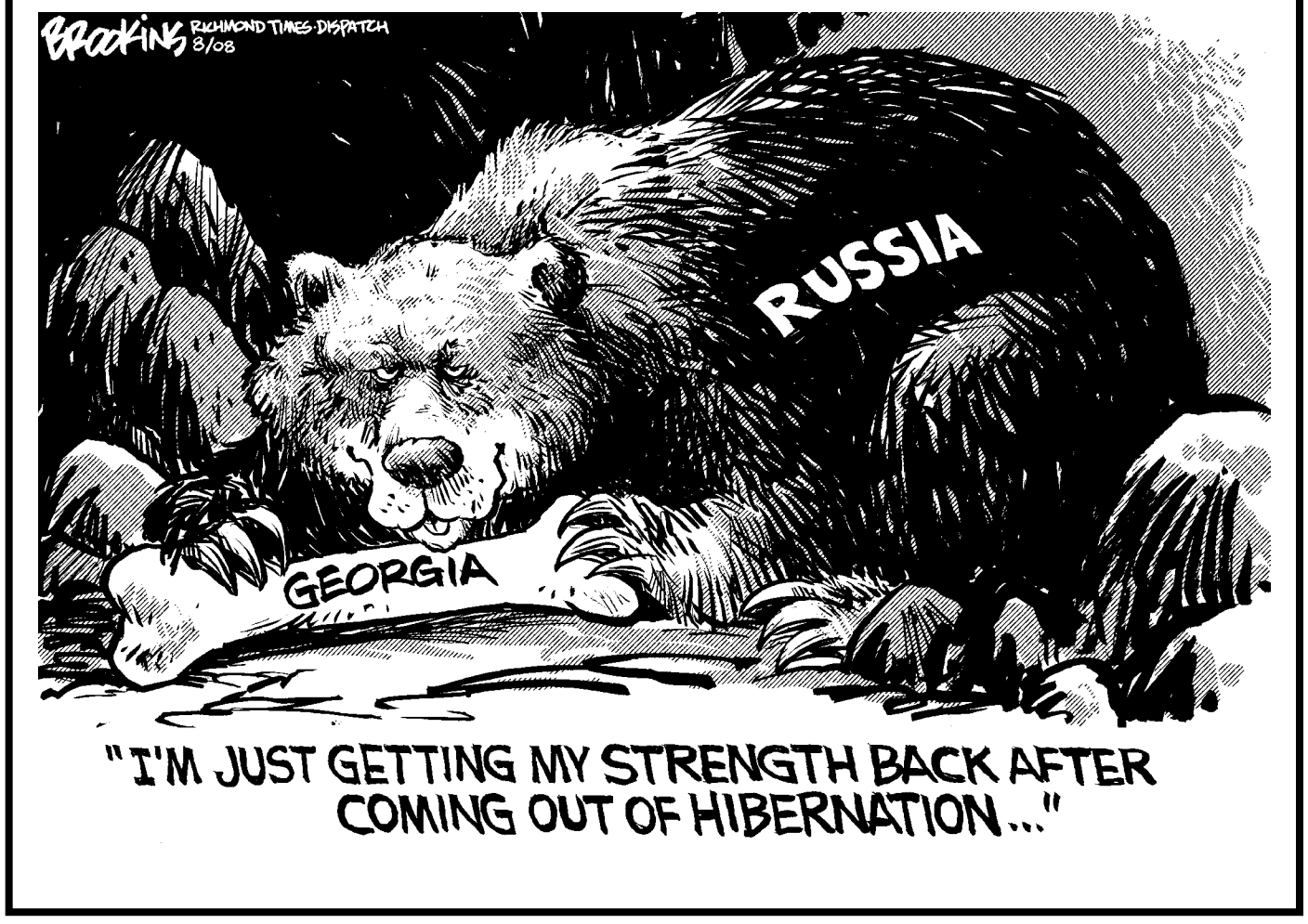

But CUC told me so

I will mention only two brief items about our power provider this time.

First, someone has coined the term "power innages"; this pretty much describes the state of our infrastructure right now. Second, I see there is a "countdown to Aggreko" in the newspaper right now. Let's hope there is some semblance of accuracy about the date those 15 temporary megawatts are going online.

I was thinking since the official (but usually unheeded) schedule now calls for three-hour blackout periods for all of us, it behooves us to come up with a term for the 15 hours per day our power is officially on, versus the time that it is actually on. Say ZEN Power time versus ZAP Power time.

The difference can be readily discerned by a competent appliance technician. When a toaster is connected to a household outlet, if toast is produced you are on Zap time. If your reflection on the side of the toaster is all that is produced, or if only slightly stale bread comes out of the slot, you are on Zen time irrespective of official CUC pronouncements about the schedule. You can test this system yourself by sticking your finger into any handy electric outlet, but I don't suggest it.

So standing around the water cooler at work the conversation might go something like this: "Hey Bob, what's the weather for tomorrow?"

"Gosh, I dunno, my house was on Zen time all morning while I was having breakfast so I couldn't watch the news. How about you?"

"Me too, that's why I asked. Maybe we could talk to Joe Boy, he has two gerbils running in a cage that produce more power than our CUC hookups, maybe he caught the weather report this morning."

"Don't count on it, his wife Martha invited Betty and I over for gerbil stew the other night. She said something about the price of rice being higher than her car payment. Anything else cooking?"

"Only my son, he got confused and stuck his finger in a socket during a non-official innage and found out the hard way we were on Zap time."

"Yeah, I know what you mean, my kid got second-degree burns from the toaster the other day while using it as a mirror."

■ ■ ■ ■

To sue or not to sue.

It's not about whether "federalization" will be good for us or not (although I, like many, think it will be disastrous). It is about whether the U.S. can run roughshod over the CNMI and abrogate its commitment via the Covenant to assist the NMI in its efforts to be self-governing. The initial NMI negotiators were foolish enough to give away their right to control their own immigration, but that is water under the bridge. What they did not give up is the right to control their own labor laws or to govern themselves internally as they—not an unelected U.S. bureaucrat or U.S. elected politico—sees fit.

What is happening right now is the U.S. is pushing against the Covenant as hard as they can to see how much we are willing to let them get away with. Purpose: unknown. Perhaps they want to vastly expand their military presence here and turn this into a military economy again with them pulling the strings once more. Maybe it is something else entirely different. For sure they are making noises like they want to take Pagan as well as Tinian and use them for military "training" and have mentioned several other islands as well. An "environmental" monument that encompasses the northernmost three islands and forbids most uses is proposed but coincidentally excludes the U.S. military and allows them to do as they wish. Maybe that is innocent, maybe not. Perhaps there are other, more personal forces at work or maybe it is just the relentless leaning of the big on the small as seen throughout history. Whatever their intent the pressure against our freedoms is intense and seems to be growing.

As I see it, the proposed suit will try to draw a line on the sand and state for all to see that the CNMI is trying to be something other than a U.S. colony, a lackey to be tossed the occasional bone when the mood strikes and to be given the short stick the rest of the time. A pat on the head and a few dollops from the petty cash drawer as they have their way with us are supposed to pass for the right, yes, right, to self-rule as stipulated in the governing document, the Covenant. Four hundred thousand dollars, or whatever the Freedom Suit costs, is a paltry sum when compared to the loss of those rights. I must admit that since the government is running short of cash, choosing where to get the $400K is not easy. Critics will gnash their teeth and say it will come from the baby's milk fund. I'm sure legislators can find a little pork to trim by $400,000 if they look hard enough. The children and grandchildren of the CNMI will thank them for finding it.

The spin we are getting from the disaffected left (meaning those who believe that government control trumps personal freedom and responsibility) is that we cannot sue the federal government to try

See BUT on Next Page

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/

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Economics 101

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Economics is a Social Studies course in the current PSS-CNMI curriculum matrix for both the 8th and the 12th grade in high school. Being a member of the learning community assigned to think through the whole K-12 Social Studies curricula, I peeked at the state of text materials on the course.

Current textbooks assume and begin with the validity of the population disaster scenario of the Anglican cleric Thomas Robert Malthus, who, writing at the turn of the 1800s, pointed out that population growth generally preceded expansion of the population's resources, in particular the primary resource of food. The increase of population is geometrical while the increase in food supply is arithmetical. Population growth will always increase faster than the production of food, and in due time, Charles Darwin will see, the natural process of selection will determine the survival of the fittest.

Scarcity of resources has since become the bedrock of the science of political economy, dousing the earlier optimism of Adam Smith's projection on the well-being of the masses if vested authority did not interfere with the "invisible hand" of the marketplace, and incurring the ire of Marx and Engels in that this seeming incontrovertible truth was used to justify the maintenance and preservation of the European imperial social status quo.

The point here is that we teach our children Economics from the perspective of scarcity, loading the dice to such inevitable results as "Looking after No. 1," aiming to be at the top of the social pyramid as a life goal, and blessing greed and avarice as the consequent motivating factor in the acquisition of wealth.

In an earlier series of articles on China prior to the Beijing Olympics, I made the observation that China's industrialization program, at best, aimed for a trickle down economics where at least 20 percent of the affected population benefit from any investment effort, and government equalizes benefits with services for the remaining 80 percent. In our current free enterprise system in the United States, 1 percent of the population owns the combined assets of 80 percent of us. Finances and exchange mechanisms are what pass for economics in school learning. Time to broaden the perspective.

What if we look at Economics from the perspective, say, of the Jesuit Chardin who admonished earlier that "the task before us now, if we would not perish, is to shake off our ancient prejudices and rebuild the earth"; were we to educate our young to the workings of the new global economy, we might need to recreate our images of society, its processes and how we name them. The economic process would be one of them.

Let me suggest that to be a conscious social human being in the 21st century, as it was in previous ones, is to be inexorably involved in issues of survival and sustenance (economic); of ordering and organizing society to overcome chaos (political); and of education, family and community, and the celebration of life and death (cultural). These three are major processes based on three basic drives found in all humans and all societies: the drive to survive (economic), the drive to be in community (political), and the drive for meaning and significance (cultural).

The economic process is foundational to social life, that-without-which there can be no decision-making (political) and no consciousness (cultural). Economics seriously take what materially simply is. This involves resources, production and distribution.

An insignificant diehard few keeps claiming the adequacy of the previous manufacturing base of the local economy in the now lamented demise of the garment industry. If we assess the industry on its use of *resources*, we would include natural inputs like land (leased), water (pumped out swiftly that the water table has since become irreversibly saline), fuel oil (imported); human resources of required skills and abilities (imported since the local population was bereft of experience and training in both the operational and managerial requirements of the industry); and technological resources of machinery, tools, computer mapping and designs (all imported as well).

Production transforms resources into usable form, mobilizes material, tools, personnel and systems necessary to generate goods and services. In the garment factories, every step of production was foreign. Even human forces necessary to staff security of plants and maintenance of workers' health, nutrition and sanitation, and the actual garment production required contracted foreign workers. Ditto for every step in the *distribution* process from factory inventory to final delivery of product to the retail outlets. Minimal benefit in the process accrued to the local economy.

Were the collected fees sufficient to provide for the municipal support and services necessary to sustain the industry? Part of the impetus to federalize labor and immigration laws was the fact that the liabilities presented by the industry from the hiring of personal to their treatment in the Commonwealth had become not only a national embarrassment, it had also gone out of local control. One thing we know, the industry's revenues created a bloated public bureaucracy that became the domain of the local electoral process which lately received from its own ranks revelation of widespread practices of what are referred to elsewhere as nepotism and corruption. (We will deal with PolSci for Beginners in tomorrow's reflections.)

At the Sabalu market this week were our two entrepreneurship gurus, Walt and Tony, whose reflections in this paper have pushed for local self-sufficiency (economic), self-reliance (political) and self-confidence (cultural). To their relentless efforts, let me add this picture of island economy.

My daughter sent me $50 celebration gift. I spent a good portion of it at Sabalu market, most of which will circulate into local hands for a while. Here are four guiding principles in viewing the island's economic process: 1) Bring in the money. Daughter's gift, and investment on a new casino are the same. We bring in value that was not here before. 2) Retain the money. Deposit it in a local account that can locally circulate through savings' interests and loans. If investment account is elsewhere, it does not benefit the local economy. 3) Circulate the money as rapidly and widely as possible. This is hard since tools, personnel, materials, and operational systems are sourced elsewhere. Even the food chain for human forces extends all the way to Oakland, California and Baltimore, Maryland! This is where supporting local products and services are critical. 4) Relate to the larger regional and global economy by finding ways to get the money to return. For the visitors' industry, returning customers is crucial; evidently, the experience must be worth the cost of visiting and coming back for seconds.

So, for budding economists, here is the mantra: Bring in the money, retain it locally, circulate it rapidly, widely and as long as possible, and then relate it to the larger economy in a manner that will find its way back. Getting hold of this process has consequences to local politics and culture.

Malthus was writing about population growth, not food supply. The Sabalu market and the other promotion of other locally produced goods, particularly food supply, is an area where we can retain, circulate and manage moneys that are locally invested from elsewhere. If Walt keeps extolling the virtues of *malunggay* (add *amargoso* [bitter melon] there, too, Walt!) we might even get our school children tending school gardens again. How about it, PSS?

A new light shining

There's a new light shining, and hopefully a new day beginning. OK, let's not go overboard quite yet but, according to my statistics, there were a record number of the CNMI citizenry speaking up and shining their lights as they expressed their thoughts on an array of island concerns this past week or so.

There are now even teenagers weighing in with serious concerns and from-the-heart feelings and ideas. A very bright MHS student even was brave enough to address her aunties and uncles at the Legislature. Yes, you were blunt by the standards of some, but I would not say disrespectful. In fact, you expressed yourself ever-so-well, especially in the latter half of your letter. And you have captured in a "nutshell" the real issue concerning the Legislature: *"This is not your time or your place."*

Yes, Kalani, we did elect the lawmakers to be our voice and to represent our ideals and values. And we did elect them to improve the way things are around here. And no, we did not elect them to disappoint us! And, yes again, there are many different people with many different ideas (I think we call that *diversity*). And diversity is a powerful concept if the people of the CNMI decide to take advantage of all the potential benefits it affords.

So, legislators, please take note of this island niece and, "start cooperating like adults."

You are our elected representatives, so please get down to the real business of representing us. Many believe that not only is there a new light beginning to shine on Saipan, but a new day beginning to unfold as well. And many believe that the old paradigm of winning elections has seen its day…and that day is over. So if you want to regain your time and place, now and possibly in the future, take heed!

It would appear that it's time to "get with the program." Open up the government and its workings and debates and include the ideals, values and especially the will of the people. A good place to begin to roll up your sleeves is with the Open Government Act. It will provide the transparency and openness necessary to bring ethics, morality and honesty back into governance.

What have you got to lose, legislators? And what has the island and its people got to gain? Please think it over. There is a new light, and with it is coming a new day. Hurray! Power to the people.

Perry Conner
As Matuis, Saipan

BUT

From Page 10

and protect what is left of our right to self government and from their encroachment on it while at the same time asking for disaster aid or other aid from FEMA or Insular Affairs, etc. This is a clever ploy but absolutely incorrect. This pro-federal propaganda move makes it sound like the U.S. Fed is a homogenous single entity, a person in short, who acts and reacts as a unit. Nothing could be further from the truth. Each of these behemoth organizations inside the fed grinds along doing its own work based on entrenched regulations and self interest, not on whether someone is suing some other part of the fed for a redress of grievances.

The 50 states sue the feds regularly for perceived encroachment into their rightful spheres of influence. The federal government is not like some little child (or naïve lawmaker) who, if you confront them with a wrong, throws a fit or refuses to dispense required services or voluntary aid. To claim we have no chance of receiving FEMA or other assistance because we are suing to cure a breach of a contractual obligation is nonsense and shows both a lack of understanding and a huge disrespect to the concept of a freely self-governed Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Sure, we need to keep an open dialog going with each of the four U.S. bureaucracies that will wield authority over labor policy here if the suit fails to protect our rights. Sure, stakeholders and leaders should not just help but go out of their way and even demand if necessary that they be part of the regulation drafting process. This does not mean we can't sue simultaneously to protect our contractual rights and the right to internal self-government.

Everyone who opposes this is not evil incarnate. There are many who think the U.S. Congress' slam dunk is a done deal and no amount of suing will win the point. Count my wife among the majority who think it is just a waste of time and that the 400 thou could be better used elsewhere. Several political leaders like Diego Benevente have called for talking instead of litigation. While I respect the views of these folks, I still think we can do both. At the same time we are talking and trying to help write the regulations, we can be trying to mitigate some of the damage the labor takeover would cause. The only way to do that is to get the U.S. Justice Department to curb some of the excesses created by the U.S. Congress. Then we can have the best of both worlds.

This is a question that needs desperately to be addressed by the courts and it needs to be done immediately. I hope the Legislature, at least those responsible adults in the Legislature, respond by appropriating the requested funding immediately. This is probably the most important priority we have at the moment. Lack of electric power is an inconvenience; lack of freedom is a crushing blow to human dignity and future progress. Once the burglar's pry bar is stuck in the door, you can either push it back out and call for legal help or you can let him break open your door and take your rightful belongings. If he sees something he likes, you can bet he will be back for more later.

Far from being a "waste of money" as some contend, it is the sworn responsibility of the Legislature to uphold the Constitution and the Covenant. This cause needs their positive action to uphold that pledge. Elected public Representatives, please appropriate those funds.

■ ■ ■ ■

Quote of the week: For in reason, all government without the consent of the governed is the very definition of slavery.

—Jonathan Swift, satirist (1667-1745)

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds around 10 mph becoming southwest.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

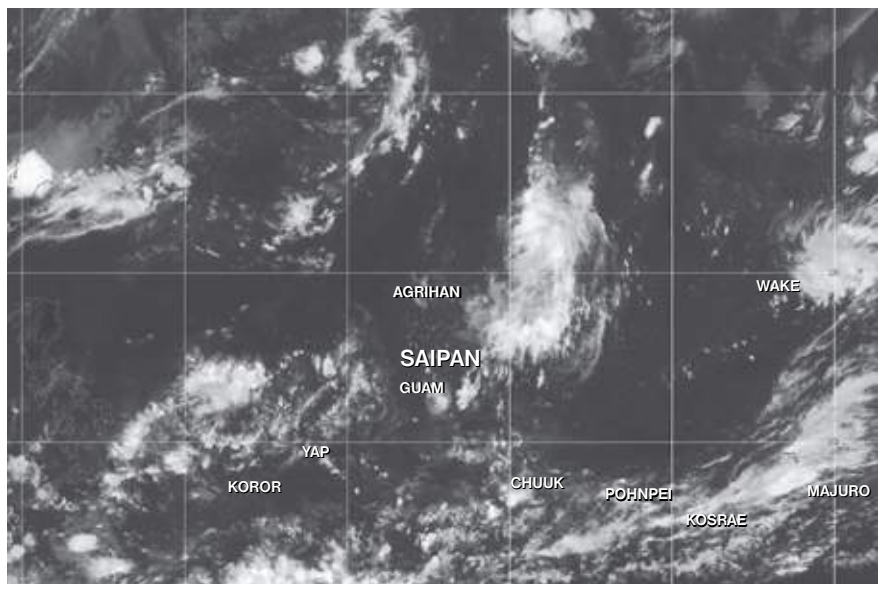
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Palau	Thundershowers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼73
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲62	▼46
Beijing	Sunny	▲86	▼61
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲91	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼75
London	Showers	▲68	▼57
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲85	▼62
Manila	Cloudy	▲93	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲61	▼48
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼80
New York	Sunny	▲89	▼70
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
Paris	Cloudy	▲72	▼57
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼73
Rome	Cloudy	▲84	▼62
Salem	Cloudy	▲77	▼52
San Francisco	Sunny	▲84	▼55
Seoul	Rain	▲79	▼68
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲84	▼73
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲93	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface low near 29N155E is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northwest of the Marianas within 75 miles of a line extending northeastward from 17N151E to 25N153E. An upper-level trough running northeastward from 5N155E through an upper-level low centered near 21N168E to end beyond 25N at 170E is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Wake Island within 100 miles of a line extending northeastward from 19N169E to 25N176E. Low-level convergence is triggering scattered showers northwest of Yap and Koror between 9N and 14N from 130E to 134E and well south of Koror and Yap between the equator and 4N from 133E to 147E. Trade wind convergence and a series of surface troughs are causing scattered showers near Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within an area bounded by a line from 8N149E to 3N153E to 5N165E to 10N172E to 12N166E to 8N167E back to 8N149E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:16AM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:59AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:26PM Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
9:21PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:05AM	6:28 PM
Thursday	6:05AM	6:27 PM
Friday	6:05AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:05AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:52AM	7:57PM
Wednesday	8:43AM	8:35PM
Thursday	9:34AM	9:14PM
Friday	10:25AM	9:56PM
Saturday	11:18AM	10:41PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 099	5:00am	7:30am	Daily
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily
NW 075	4:55pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:20pm	6:55pm	Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,5

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:15am	2:50pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily
NW 100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	4,7

Manila-Guam

CO 892	11:45am	8:25pm+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
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  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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Oceans: Our finite, fragile and valuable resources

By JOSHUA REICHERT
and TERRY GARCIA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joshua Reichert is managing director of the Pew Environment Group. Terry Garcia is executive vice president for mission programs at the National Geographic Society and former assistant secretary for oceans and atmosphere at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Two years ago, President Bush set a new standard for global ocean protection when he created the world's largest no-take marine protected area in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Earlier this week, the White House announced another group of sites in U.S. waters that will be assessed for possible protection as marine monuments or sanctuaries.

While the president's announcement is a hopeful sign for ocean conservation, monument or sanctuary designation alone does not necessarily convey a high degree of protection, and could allow a host of activities including commercial and recreational fishing, and deep sea mining, among others. However, if the president establishes these new sites as no-take reserves, where no extractive activity is allowed, it would be one of the most significant environmental achievements of any U.S. president.

Included in the president's list of potential underwater reserves is an Arizona-sized section of ocean near the famed Mariana Trench in the Western Pacific. As the deepest canyon on earth, the almost 36,000-foot deep Mariana Trench could swallow Mt. Everest with room to spare. It is also home to an array of rare, exotic underwater mud volcanoes and some of the most unusual deep sea creatures on Earth.

Another proposed site is Rose Atoll off American Samoa in the Pacific Ocean, which is a nesting area for the threatened green sea turtle and home to the rare giant clam. The final site, holding five times as many coral species as are found in the Florida Keys, is an area surrounding the Central Pacific islands of Palmyra, Kingman, Johnston, Jarvis, Howland, Wake and Baker.

The White House announcement gave no hint of the level of protection that is being contemplated for these sites. If the president bows to the inevitable pressure he will get from industry interests, and leaves these areas open to activity that could well damage these unique and relatively pristine places, he will miss a historic opportunity. On the other hand, if he designates these sites as no-take marine reserves, and provides adequate resources for their management, he will leave a legacy of ocean parks akin to that of Theodore Roosevelt, who created some of America's most beloved parks on land.

So why does this matter? It matters because the world's oceans are critical to the health of the global environment but are rapidly deteriorating. For far too many years, we have ignored the warnings that overfishing, pollution and the excessive development of coastal areas are taking a serious toll on the health of our oceans, which help to regulate our climate, generate much of the air we breathe and detoxify and recycle pollutants. Oceans, and the life they contain, support millions of jobs and provide a significant amount of needed protein to people and animals throughout the world, in addition to being a source of enjoyment and beauty to us all. In short, they help to nourish and sustain life on Earth.

Compared to land, a remarkably small percentage (less than one-tenth of 1 percent) of the world's ocean waters are protected from destructive activity in the form of no-take marine reserves. While such reserves are certainly not a panacea for solving all of the problems that plague our marine environment, science has demonstrated that they are an invaluable tool in protecting diverse oceanic habitats.

Properly created, protected, managed and funded, marine reserves are highly effective ways to reinvigorate our oceans in ways that can benefit all stakeholders. They generate tourism, increase the abundance of fish and other marine life, help us better understand how healthy marine ecosystems function and assist in protecting heretofore undiscovered species of marine life that can benefit humankind in numerous ways.

The establishment in 2006 of the world's largest marine reserve in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands was a remarkable step forward for global ocean conservation. The president now has the opportunity to expand that legacy by fully protecting some of the largest and most pristine areas left in U.S. waters. But these sites must be protected in substance as well as in form.

If he does that, George W. Bush will have protected more of the world's oceans in the form of reserves than any other person in history, and will have led the nation into a new era of ocean conservation by signaling the need to begin treating our oceans as the finite, fragile and valuable resources they are, both for the nation and the world.

MINA supports creation of marine preserve

By CHUCK SAYON
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Earlier this year, the concept of a marine monument around the three northernmost islands of the Marianas archipelago was proposed. In response, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance put forth a resolution supporting the concept of a marine conservation area and stated that a dialogue within the community was needed to discuss its merits. Since that time, much information has been presented, discussed and published. Upon review and analysis of this information, it has become clear that the creation of a marine conservation area in the northern islands would be the best way to conserve and restore the array of habitats that sustains the natural biodiversity and heritage of these islands. Therefore, last week we passed a resolution stating that:

The Marianas Islands Nature Alliance supports the creation of a marine conservation area around the three northern islands of Asuncion, Maug and Uracus. We encourage the Commonwealth government and the national government to create, in partnership, an area that will protect and promote the conservation of precious and unique marine resources. We support this endeavor knowing that now and future generations will benefit from scientific study; from increased economic opportunity through education and tourism; and, from the preservation of wildlife important to the cultural heritage of the Commonwealth's people.

It is clear that the competing economic interests of commercial fisheries and mining do not outweigh the long-term economic benefits of conservation. Conservation has a proven track record of providing opportunities for scientific study, the ability to provide educational opportunities, and to develop compatible industries such as tourism. Also, there will be government and non-government organization funding for research, maintenance, enforcement and administration. Commercial fishing is a short-term economic gain that only diminishes the quality of resources not only locally but on a regional scale and, if engaged in, supports a very narrow segment of the economy. With mining, the location, technology, expertise and needed manpower make this uneconomical given other similar opportunities and projects worldwide.

We need to encourage the local and federal governments to come together to create a great ocean legacy in the Commonwealth. Formal designation of this area as a marine preserve and a commitment by the federal government to dedicate expertise and financial resources is an opportunity that does not come often. We also need to take this opportunity to help make our earth better as it is on the verge of an environmental crisis. Although many may not have the opportunity to visit these most northern islands of the Commonwealth, their preservation and the knowledge that future generations will benefit is something that we all can afford now.

Lastly, the people of the Commonwealth have ties to the ocean, an inexplicable and spiritual connection. But this ocean connection has many parts and is inter-related; the land, the sea, the sky and the wildlife. When put together, the whole gives a greater sense of being and Spiritualness than the mere sum of its parts. The creation of a large marine preserve in the northern most islands, a saving of the earth's ocean surface and what is below and above its waters, is a gift to future generations. There will be great comfort knowing that we will have a place that always has been and shall always forever be!

Let us come together to make this marine conservation area a reality.

Chuck Sayon is the interim executive director of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (http://www.minapacific.org/)

Letters to the Editor

Marine sanctuaries work

I like to eat fish. So on Friday, I got a takeout lunch with fried parrot fish and titiyas. As usual, I set it in the middle of the table at work, offering to share with all. Eventually, one of my co-workers came by and said something to me about how delicious the fish was. Yes, I completely agreed.

Then he started teasing me about how I was eating fish from the sanctuary. He knows that I support the creation of a national marine monument. I thought he was joking. But no, he insisted, the fish I had purchased and was enjoying so much had come from Mañagaha sanctuary, he said. It's a type of yellow parrot fish, and you just can't find it anymore in our waters, except in the sanctuary.

I believe him. He's an avid fisherman, and respectful of the sanctuaries. If he says that fish was caught illegally, I think it really was. And I was eating it. And it made me feel guilty—that fish I was eating should have still been alive and contributing to the creation of more fish and helping to restore the damaged eco-systems around our island.

Then I started getting angry. Who would fish in the Mañagaha sanctuary? And why? My co-worker had some answers to those questions, too. Who—fishermen who thought they wouldn't get caught and who don't respect conservation. He said our local CNMI enforcement officers can't keep watch 24 hours a day. We don't have the means to do this. And why—because the sanctuaries have allowed fish populations to come back, while these same fish have been fished out in the rest of our ocean.

It made me think some more about my position on the proposal to create a national marine monument in the northern waters around Asuncion, Maug, and Uracas. It's very obvious that sanctuaries do work—they protect environments and allow ecosystems to stay healthy or recover. That's why there are more fish in our local sanctuaries than in the surrounding waters where fishing is not restricted. They're good.

And the CNMI, despite it's pride and desire for self-government and as little federal "intervention" as possible, just can't protect the waters alone. We can't even protect our local sanctuaries sufficiently. We need help.

If we designate the waters around our three northernmost islands as a national monument, they'll be a sanctuary. We'll still have the problem of enforcing restrictions. But we'll be in a better position to argue for more help than we're currently getting. The U.S. Coast Guard does some monitoring and enforcement (and catches some foreign fishing poachers), but the CNMI could team up with them, and also argue for more funding, more enforcement monitoring, more patrol ships in the monument waters.

I support the proposal to designate a Marianas Trench National Marine Monument; then we could protect and save the ecosystems there. We could have healthy marine environments that start to restore our oceans. And eventually, we might see some spillover of the fish and other sea creatures, into the waters where our fishermen can legally fish.

And I'll still enjoy eating fish, and from now on, they'll be legally caught fish.

Jane Mack
via e-mail

Fighting for the people of the CNMI

When I accepted a two-year contract on an island called Saipan—an island I didn't even know about thanks to my high school education focusing on the European aspect of World War II—I never knew that it would change my life. I've always been one for adventure, and accepted a position as an Assistant Attorney General thinking that it was only two years, and heck, I could manage anything for two years. What I immediately found in the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division Office was family, and friends that I will never leave behind, even though I have chosen to return stateside to be closer to my immediate family. I found administrative staff that were (and are) so incredibly dedicated to their jobs that they work on the weekends without pay, and lawyers who hold themselves to the utmost of professional standards, and take their oath of office with the utmost of sincerity, all of whom are life-long prosecutors dedicated to public service for far less pay than they could get in other mainland jobs. During the past two years, I have come to admire and deeply respect everyone in that office, and want to extend my thanks and gratitude to everyone in the OAG's Criminal Division for accepting me so warmly and helping me grow into a better, more focused attorney. I will miss you all, my family.

I encourage the public to acknowledge what an experienced and dedicated office they have in the Criminal Division, under the leadership of (while I was there) both Jeffrey Warfield Sr. and Kevin Lynch as Chief Prosecutor, as well as Deputy Attorney General Gregory Baka and Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory. All of the attorneys in the Criminal Division are people I know well, and are seeking justice on a daily basis, and they deserve all the accolades bestowed on them. I have worked with attorneys all over the globe and have not found a more dedicated or intelligent group. As a career prosecutor, I know that it is more often than not a thankless job, with the mistakes and missteps more often highlighted in the public eye than the triumphs. I stress, however, that it is easiest to tear down rather than to build up. So, in this time of seemingly uncertain times, I encourage all citizens of the CNMI to recognize that the attorneys of the OAG's Criminal Division are the citizen's attorneys, seeking justice on a daily basis and fighting the good fight that needs to be fought for all people of the CNMI.

Many thanks and best wishes to all.

Melissa Simms
Former Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

Business

Gustav's possible economic hit is widespread

AP

Mojo Coffee House owner, Demian Estevez, spray paints the plywood over windows as he makes final preparations for the approaching threat of Hurricane Gustav Sunday morning Aug. 31, 2008, in Marrero La.

By ALAN SAYRE
AP BUSINESS WRITER

HAMMOND, La. (AP)—Although attention is focused on the petroleum industry as Hurricane Gustav takes aim at the Gulf Coast, billions of dollars are at stake in other economic sectors: New Orleans' trademark tourism industry, the shipping business, sugar harvesting—and even such niche products as red-hot Tabasco sauce.

And, the affected states face another wild card—depending upon the storm's damage, some of the current crop of thousands of storm evacuees may decide twice is enough, aggravating the region's labor problem by never coming back.

For many this weekend, it was simply a matter of preparing as much as possible—then waiting for Monday's expected arrival of Gustav.

The Port of New Orleans shut down as the Coast Guard closed the lower Mississippi River. The French Quarter was emptied of visitors as most hotels closed. Coastal casinos, a dozen of which were destroyed three years ago by Hurricane Katrina, closed their doors.

"After a certain point, though, Mother Nature's going to have her say," said spokesman Mark Crowley of Crowley Maritime Corp., which operates container ships, tugs and barges in the Gulf Coast region.

Shipping companies have been making preparations for the last several days, diverting cargo and sending ships away from the storm's path while also evacuating equipment from the Gulf Coast.

The New Orleans port sustained $260 million in damage from Katrina on Aug. 29, 2005, but was able to take its first ship a week later. On Sunday, the port had locked down cranes and secured all floating equipment. Several vessels were remaining until the storm passed. The last vessel departed Saturday night, well before the Coast Guard closed the lower Mississippi River on Sunday.

Gustav's projected storm surge stood to cut through the heart of Louisiana's sugar industry in southern Louisiana, which includes 600 growers, 11 processing mills and an estimated $500 million annual crop value, according to the American Sugar Cane League.

The storm came on top of such problems as high fuel and fertilizer prices, sagging prices caused by imported sugar and a rainy summer that has delayed crops. Many growers have supplemented their sugar crops by growing soybeans, which also stand to get flooded, said the group's general manager, Jim Simon.

Simon said the sugar business in Louisiana, in a good year, can carry a total economic impact of up to $2 billion.

"When we take a hit like this, it not only affects the growers, but it can trickle through the entire sugar economy," Simon said.

The manufacturer of Tabasco—Avery Island, La.-based McIlhenny Co.—indicated that hot sauce lovers wouldn't be cut off for long, if at all.

When investing, men and women respond to risk differently—studies

By MICHAEL S. ROSENWALD
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Studies by numerous university economists and behavioral finance experts show that men and women, after all these years of growing closer together in the workplace, on athletic fields and in classrooms, are still somewhat far apart when it comes to roles in investing and to attitudes about where and how to sock away money.

A survey of American households performed by Iowa State University and presented to the NASD Investor Education Foundation found that in relationships in which couples didn't make investment decisions together, the men overwhelmingly took control. Women reported finding investing more stressful, less exciting and more difficult than men did. "The men are just much more comfortable than the women," said Tahira Hira, a consumer economics professor at Iowa State and author of the study.

Emily Chiang, an investment adviser at Alexander Randolph in Reston, Va., thinks men still tend to dominate the investing world — on Wall Street, among certified personal financial advisers (only 23 percent of whom are women) and in homes across America —because of evolutionary psychology dating to the hunter-gatherer days. "Men are hunters," she said. "Women are more like gatherers."

What is fascinating about some of the research into how men and women approach investing is that when women do take more active roles, their behavior is far different from men's. These studies show that one of the most significant differences between men and women is their approaches to risk and how much they are willing to tolerate. Men tolerate more risk than women, which means that over time, women's returns could be less.

"Women sometimes take overly conservative positions, and sometimes then they don't make as much money as men," Chiang said. "It's true that most men are willing to take more risks than women."

In one illuminating report, Colorado State University researchers examined a large sample of household investment holdings and found that single women held 43 percent of their wealth in risky assets while single men held 51 percent. As their wealth increased, women devoted less money to risky assets than men did.

There are also studies that have shown that women prefer to invest in large-cap, slower-growth companies and that men prefer riskier, small-cap firms with big upsides. "The battle between greed and fear is involved in all investing," said Tracey Baker, a vice president at CJM Wealth Advisers in Fairfax, Va. "There is a little more greed in the guys and a little more fear in the girls."

But perhaps because of that, there is a flip side: Women largely exhibit more self-control and rational behavior than men do when it comes to investment decisions.

"Men are more willing to make decisions without studying them," said Hira, the Iowa State professor. "They also feel like they can beat up the market. On the other hand, when women get involved, they are more diligent workers. They study. They talk. They learn. They don't have the urge to beat the market."

Merrill Lynch Investment Managers, now part of BlackRock, studied these differences, surveying 1,000 investors. The findings were striking, especially when it came to a phenomenon in behavioral finance known as loss aversion — the idea that losing money hurts more than getting money feels good. Loss aversion is one explanation for why investors often hold on to losing investments longer than they should. Selling losers forces us to admit that we are, well, losers.

The survey showed that 47 percent of men held on to a loser too long vs. 35 percent of women. Perhaps not surprising: Forty-eight percent of men said they had done this more than once vs. 34 percent of women. Conversely, 43 percent of men vs. 28 percent of women reported waiting too long to sell a winning investment, perhaps squandering some profit.

Men were also more likely than women, according to the study, to allocate too much money to one particular stock, buy a hot stock without doing any research, attempt to beat the market and ignore the tax consequences of their trades.

Men also reported that they traded stocks far more often than they should, which is a considerable problem. Research by Terrance Odean, a prominent behavioral economist at the University of California at Berkeley, has shown that too much trading is harmful to the portfolios of average retail investors using online trading services.

When people have a choice of two stocks to sell, they more often sell the stock that does better in the future and hold on to one that does worse, Odean found. And they tend to then buy stocks that do worse than the stock they just sold. In a study called "Boys Will Be Boys," Odean found that single men trade 67 percent more than single women, earning 2.3 percent less in returns.

Women reported finding investing more stressful, less exciting and more difficult than men did.

"It's the overtrading that causes men to have lower returns," Odean said. "On average, both men and women tend to make trades that they would be better off not making, but men just make more of them."

Where a lot of these studies fall short is looking at what happens when men and women actively trade together, as a single unit, bringing both their tendencies to the table. Few researchers have looked at this, but earlier this year, Brooke Harrington, a sociologist at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, published a fascinating book called "Pop Finance" that looked at the behavior of investment clubs.

Wind, solar energy built on temporary tax breaks

WASHINGTON (AP) -- Congress is putting the short-term future of renewable energy companies in jeopardy even as the presidential candidates and most lawmakers hail windmills, solar panels and biofuels as long-term solutions to high gasoline prices and global warming.

Some $500 million in investment and production tax credits will expire Dec. 31 unless Congress renews them. Without that help, solar and wind power companies say they will reverse planned expansions and, in many cases, cut payrolls and capital investment.

Schott Solar has visions of quadrupling its operation in Albuquerque, N.M., to reach 1,500 jobs and $500 million in investment. But the investment tax credit, company spokesman Brian Lynch said, is what makes solar power cost-competitive. Without it, expansion plans must be reconsidered.

"We don't want to build a giant factory that the market doesn't need or want," Lynch said.

The Solar Energy Industries Association says some 20 utility-scale solar power plants, many in California and together capable of producing power for a million homes, are at risk because of the uncertainty in Congress.

Proponents of wind power, a nascent industry that relies on skittish investors, are in a similar predicament. Greg Wetstone of the American Wind Energy Association says his group is predicting a loss of 76,000 jobs and $11.4 billion in investment if Congress allows its production tax credit to expire.

"Investors like to know what tax policies apply when they are putting millions of dollars down on a project. There's a pretty clear history that these projects are less likely to go forward without a credit," he said.

Congress let the credit expire in 2000, 2002 and 2004. In those three years, wind capacity installation dropped 93 percent, 73 percent and 77 percent, respectively, from the previous year.

Nation

The Gulf Coast waits: Will it be another Katrina?

By STACEY PLAISANCE and BECKY BOHRER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—With a historic evacuation of nearly 2 million people from the Louisiana coast complete, gun-toting police and National Guardsmen stood watch as rain started to fall on this city's empty streets Sunday night—and even presidential politics took a back seat as the nation waited to see if Hurricane Gustav would be another Katrina.

The storm was set to crash ashore late Monday morning with frightful force, testing the three years of planning and rebuilding that followed Katrina's devastating blow to the Gulf Coast. The storm has already killed at least 94 people on its path through the Caribbean.

Painfully aware of the failings that led to more than 1,600 deaths during Katrina, this time officials moved beyond merely insisting tourists and residents leave south Louisiana. They threatened to put looters behind bars, loaded thousands onto buses and warned that anyone who remained behind would not be rescued.

They were confident that they had done all they could.

"It's amazing. It makes me feel really good that so many people are saying, 'We as Americans, we as the world, have to get this right this time,'" New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said late Sunday. "We cannot afford to screw up again."

Col. Mike Edmondson, state police commander, said he believed that 90 percent of the population had fled the Louisiana coast. The exodus of 1.9 million people is the largest evacuation in state history, and thousands more had left from Mississippi, Alabama and flood-prone southeast Texas.

Late Sunday, Gov. Bobby Jindal issued one last plea to the roughly 100,000 people still left on the coast: "If you've not evacuated, please do so. There are still a few hours left."

Louisiana and Mississippi temporarily changed traffic flow so all highway lanes led away from the coast, and cars were packed bumper-to-bumper. Stores and restaurants shut down, hotels closed and windows were boarded up. Some who planned to stay changed their mind at the last second, not willing to risk the worst.

AP

Northbound traffic backs up on I-65 coming into Montgomery, Ala. on Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008. Coastal residents are evacuating north because of Hurricane Gustav.

New Orleans leaders confident police won't bolt

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—More than a week ago, at the first hint Gustav could be a threat to New Orleans, police Superintendent Warren Riley issued an unusual order—he gave all the city's 1,485 officers paid time off to get their families to safety.

It was a lesson learned from the bitter experience of Hurricane Katrina, when dozens of officers were roundly criticized for abandoning their posts as their colleagues and the citizens they were sworn to protect were left swamped, scared and at the mercy of lawlessness. Some were called cowards. Several dozen ended up being fired.

Many of the officers who left said the storm forced them to make an agonizing choice: Take care of strangers or take care of your family.

This time around, the department was doing all it could to make sure that officers had enough of a chance to do both, well ahead of Gustav's landfall.

"It's a double-edged sword, and it's either your coworkers or your family," said Officer Carolyn Dalton. "And I will choose my family every time."

AP

Louisiana National Guard 256th Infantry Brigade members SPC Joseph Baurier, left, SSG Ashton Stephens ,center, and PFC Nick Ali , right, all of New Orleans patrol along Bourbon St. in the French Quarter on Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008, in New Orleans before Hurricane Gustav makes land fall.

McCain orders convention curtailed for Gustav

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP)—John McCain tore up the script for his Republican National Convention on Sunday, casting himself as above politics as Hurricane Gustav churned toward New Orleans. "We will act as Americans," not partisans, he declared.

President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney scrapped plans to address the convention Monday night, and McCain's aides chartered a jet to fly delegates back to their hurricane-threatened states along the Gulf Coast. Campaign manager Rick Davis said the first-night program was being cut from seven hours to two-and-a-half.

Officials said that as part of the convention's opening night, Laura Bush and McCain's wife, Cindy, would speak from the podium and describe ways to help victims of the storm bearing down on a region that was devastated three years ago by Hurricane Katrina. The first lady visited the convention hall Sunday evening to check out the podium.

"This is a time when we have to do away with our party politics, and we have to act as Americans," McCain said as fellow Republicans converged on their convention city to nominate him for the White House. Aides said Monday's program would be shorn of political rhetoric.

On the eve of his convention, McCain also seemed determined to avoid the errors made by Bush three years ago. "I have every expectation that we will not see the mistakes of Katrina repeated," he said.

AP

Republican presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., left, listens as his vice presidential running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, speaks during a campaign rally Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008, in O'Fallon, Mo.

ACROSS THE NATION

New search starts for missing adventurer Fossett

HAWTHORNE, Nev. (AP)—A year after aviator and adventurer Steve Fossett vanished on a Labor Day solo flight over western Nevada, friends and admirers are waging a new search for some sign of him in an area of rugged mountains. Steep canyons and gulches choked by concealing trees and brush on the west slope of the Wassuk Range are being combed by 28 searchers headed by explorers Robert Hyman, Lew Toulmin and Bob Atwater. They're relying in part on new information from another pilot who was in the area that day that alters earlier assumptions about Fossett's likely path on what was supposed to have been a short flight. He had flown over the area many times since the mid-1990s and once hiked to the top of the Wassuk Range's 11,239-foot Mount Grant.

8 sickened by chemical exposure at plant in Ill.

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill. (AP)—One of two Missouri hospital emergency rooms reopened Sunday, a day after being shut down under quarantine when eight people sickened by a dangerous chemical's release sought treatment. Price McCarty, an FBI spokesman in Springfield, Ill., said the chemical release Saturday at the Ro-Corp. plant caused no deaths, countering a statement earlier Sunday by an East St. Louis' city official that two people had died. The chemical, which authorities said was likely the highly toxic material nitroaniline, was released when a barrel was dropped at the Ro-Corp. plant. The eight people sickened - identified by the FBI as mostly Ro-Corp. workers—remained hospitalized Sunday.

Report: Detroit mayor's lawyers offered plea deal

DETROIT (AP)—Lawyers for Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick have proposed a deal in which he would resign, plead guilty to two felonies, make restitution and serve five years' probation in exchange for avoiding jail time, a newspaper reported Sunday. The Detroit Free Press quoted "a source familiar with all aspects of the negotiations" as saying Kilpatrick's legal team also said he would give up his law license, not run for office for two years and do 300 hours of community service. Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy hadn't yet accepted the offer, the newspaper said. A person briefed on the talks told The Associated Press on Sunday that the prosecutor's office would not agree to any type of plea that doesn't involve jail time. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because of not wanting to publicly reveal specifics of the talks.

Service union vice president steps down amid probe

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An executive vice president of the Service Employees International Union has stepped aside in the midst of financial probes, and her ex-boyfriend was told to repay tens of thousands of dollars in union funds, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday. The SEIU acknowledged Saturday that its top California officer, Annelle Grajeda, has taken a leave of absence while it investigates allegations that she was improperly involved in making payments to her former boyfriend. SEIU spokeswoman Elizabeth Brennan issued a statement Saturday saying Grajeda's voluntary leave was designed to "rule out any questions about the thoroughness and transparency of the union's actions to clear up these allegations and questions."

Asia

China quake kills 32, destroys 258K homes

BEIJING (AP) -- Chinese rescue teams carrying tents, quilts and sacks of rice rushed to reach survivors of an earthquake that killed at least 32 people, turned tens of thousands of homes into rubble and cracked reservoirs.

The 6.1-magnitude quake Saturday struck Sichuan province along the same fault line as a May 12 earthquake that killed nearly 70,000.

Saturday's quake killed 27 people in Sichuan and five in the neighboring province of Yunnan, the official Xinhua News Agency said early Monday, citing the Ministry of Civil Affairs. The quake destroyed 258,000 homes, damaged major bridges and cracked three reservoirs, the agency said.

Another 467 people were injured after the earthquake hit 31 miles southeast of Panzhihua city in the southwestern corner of Sichuan, the report said.

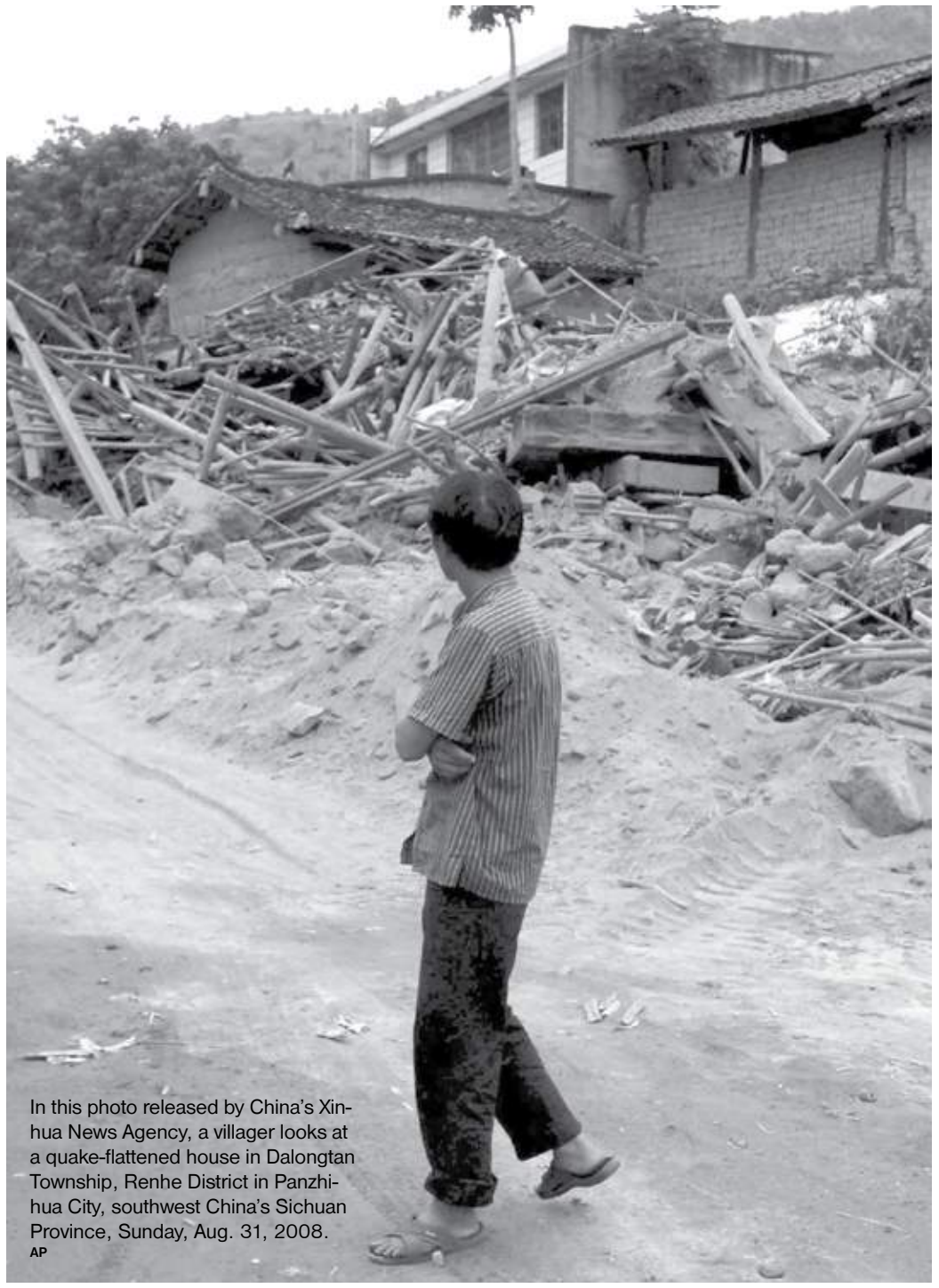
Dozens of evacuees had gathered Sunday at a primary school field in Panzhihua, state broadcaster China Central Television showed. Wrapped in quilts, the evacuees, including children and the elderly, lay on plastic sheets and mats on the ground.

About 152,000 people were evacuated and relief efforts were under way, despite being hampered by heavy rains and the region's rugged terrain, Xinhua said. It said 6,200 tents, 3,500 quilts and 55,000 pounds of rice had been sent to the quake zone.

Since the 7.9-magnitude temblor May 12, the region has been hit by scores of aftershocks.

A woman who answered the phone at the Sichuan provincial seismological bureau said the region was hit by about 300 aftershocks on Sunday morning. She declined to give her name, saying she was not authorized to speak to the media.

The China Earthquake Administration recorded a 5.6-magnitude aftershock later Sunday in the same location as Saturday's quake.



In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, a villager looks at a quake-flattened house in Dalongtan Township, Renhe District in Panzhihua City, southwest China's Sichuan Province, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008.
AP

'US troops fired on first'

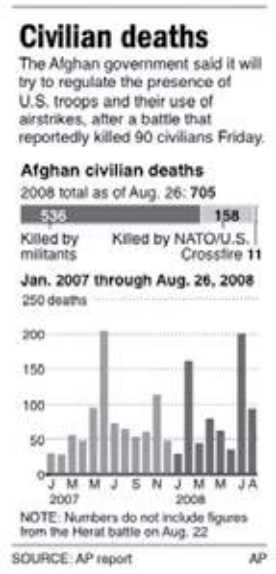
KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —An Afghan army commander said that U.S. and Afghan troops were fired on first from a village where a government investigative commission says scores of civilians were killed, according to a report released Sunday.

The chief of staff for the army's Herat corps told the head of the government's investigative commission that shots were fired early Aug. 22 from Azizabad at U.S. and Afghan troops. The troops had gone to the village on a raid.

But the report, released by the office of President Hamid Karzai, did not specify who fired the shots.

"When the ANA (Afghan army) and coalition troops got close to the village, firing started after the ANA unit stopped, and the coalition forces conducted the operation in the village," the report said.

There were no "foreign or internal Taliban" among the victims, the report said.


Civilian deaths
The Afghan government said it will try to regulate the presence of U.S. troops and their use of airstrikes, after a battle that reportedly killed 90 civilians Friday.
Afghan civilian deaths
2008 total as of Aug. 26: 705
536
158
Killed by militants
Killed by NATO/U.S. Crossfire 11
Jan. 2007 through Aug. 26, 2008
250 deaths
200
150
100
50
0
J M M J S N J M M J A
2007
2008
NOTE: Numbers do not include figures from the Herat battle on Aug. 22
SOURCE: AP report
AP

Thecommission found that 15 men, 15 women and 60 children were killed. That finding was backed by a preliminary U.N. report. The commission said eight houses were destroyed and seven damaged.

The U.S.-led coalition maintains that 25 militants and five civilians died. The U.S. says it is investigating.

The top NATO spokesman in Afghanistan, Brig. Gen. Richard Blanchette, told The Associated Press on Saturday that the U.S.-led coalition, Afghan government and U.N. would launch a probe into the raid.

RP rebels: Peace pact not likely with government under Arroyo

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government's refusal to sign an accord granting Muslims more autonomy in the south makes it virtually impossible for Islamic insurgents to forge a peace deal with President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, a chief rebel negotiator said Sunday.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front will not resume Malaysian-brokered talks unless the Philippine government agrees to sign a preliminary accord on an expanded Muslim autonomous region, an accord that took years to negotiate, negotiator Mohagher Iqbal said.

The government refused to sign the accord after three rebel commanders led a deadly rampage against southern Christian communities, prompting a major military offensive that officials said would continue through Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting that starts this week.

Thailand PM fends off calls for his resignation

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) —Facing chaotic street protests demanding his resignation, Thailand's embattled prime minister turned to lawmakers Sunday to find a way out of the crisis, but ended up having to fend off his critics' calls to step down or call new elections.

Sundaravej

Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej went before a special joint session of Parliament to find a solution to the deepening crisis, even as thousands of right-wing protesters laid siege to his office compound for a sixth night and threatened to shut down more airports and roads in the country.

The debate ended early Monday after about 11 hours with scores of lawmakers either lambasting Samak or defending him. More than 1,000 government supporters staged a spirited but peaceful counter rally in front of Parliament.

Abhisit Vejjajiva, leader of the opposition Democrat Party, proposed that Samak dissolve Parliament and call new elections.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Doctors rushed to flood victims in northern India

SAHARSA DISTRICT, India (AP)—Indian authorities are rushing doctors and medical equipment to flood-devastated northern India. Officials say they want to ward off outbreaks of disease among the hundreds of thousands of victims crowding into relief camps. Nearly half of the 1.2 million people who were left homeless when the Kosi River burst its banks two weeks ago had been rescued by Monday. Officials say they hope to reach the others in the next three days. Prataya Amrit, a top disaster management official in Bihar state, says about 250,000 refugees are in government and relief agency camps. The rest have taken shelter with family or friends.

Dalai Lama discharged from Indian hospital

MUMBAI, India (AP)—The Dalai Lama's spokesman says the Tibetan spiritual leader has been discharged from the hospital where he has been undergoing tests for abdominal discomfort. Tenzin Takla says the Dalai Lama was discharged Monday morning, but will remain in Mumbai for several days. Takla says he is in good condition but doctors have advised him to rest as much as possible. The Dalai Lama was admitted to Lilavati Hospital in Mumbai last week with what his advisers called exhaustion. He recently returned to India from France, and has canceled trips to Mexico and the Dominican Republic. Takla spoke to The Associated Press from Dharmsala, the north Indian town that has been the Dalai Lama's base since he fled Tibet in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule.

Xinhua: Death penalty for man accused of killing 6

SHANGHAI, China (AP) —China's official Xinhua News Agency says a Shanghai court has ordered the death penalty for a man convicted of killing six policemen in a knife attack at a police station. Xinhua said the Shanghai No. 2 People's Intermediate Court ordered Yang Jia sentenced to death Monday after finding him guilty of premeditated murder. Court officials would not comment. Yang, 28, was said to be unemployed. State media reports say he told police he was seeking revenge after officers at the station questioned him for allegedly stealing bicycles. Four others were injured in the attack.

Pakistan halts strikes on insurgents for Ramadan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan said Sunday it was suspending a military operation against insurgents in a tribal region for the Muslim holy month of Ramadan but warned any provocations in the area would bring immediate retaliation. A Taliban spokesman welcomed the decision to halt the strikes in the Bajur tribal region, a rumored hide-out of Osama bin Laden near the border with Afghanistan. In another part of the northwest, a blast blamed on a missile reportedly killed four suspected foreign militants. Residents said they saw a drone in the air shortly before the explosion, raising suspicion the U.S. was behind the strike. Pakistan's five-month-old government at first tried peace talks with militants, but those efforts bore little fruit. It has turned to force in recent weeks, including using helicopter gunships and jets to strike suspected insurgent hide-outs.

World

Russia's president promises military aid to South Ossetia

MOSCOW (AP) -- Russia's president said Sunday his country will give military aid to the two separatist regions at the center of the war with Georgia - signaling Moscow has no intention of backing down in the face of Western pressure.

Dmitry Medvedev also warned that American domination of world affairs is unacceptable, though he insisted that Russia did not want hostile relations with the United States and other Western nations.

Medvedev's decision Tuesday to recognize the Georgian breakaway provinces South Ossetia and Abkhazia as independent drew condemnation from the West. Though no other countries have followed Russia's lead, Medvedev reaffirmed the decision on Sunday.

"We have made our decision, and it's irreversible," he said in a speech broadcast on Russian television.

The war began Aug. 7 when Georgian forces began heavy shelling of the South Ossetian capital, Tskhinvali, hoping to retake control of the province. Russian forces poured in, pushed the Georgians out in a matter of days and then drove deep into Georgia proper.

European Union leaders planned an emergency meeting Monday to discuss how to deal with an increasingly assertive Russia, but they are not expected to impose sanctions. Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin has angrily warned Europe not to do America's bidding and said Moscow does not fear Western sanctions.

Medvedev said Sunday the world would be more stable if the U.S. was less dominant.

"The world must be multi-polar; domination is unacceptable," he said. "We can't accept the world order where all decisions are made by one nation, even by such serious and authoritative nation as the United States. Such a world would be unstable and prone to conflicts."

Nigeria militants: 29 military personnel killed

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's main militant group claimed Saturday that it killed at least 29 military personnel in three separate attacks across the restive southern oil region.

The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta said in an e-mail statement that the near-simultaneous battles came in the three main oil producing states of southern Nigeria, leaving 29 dead and others unaccounted for after they jumped from their military boats.

The group reported that six of its own fighters were also killed in the clashes, which they say they launched as reprisals for attacks they allege the military carried out on civilians.

Military officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

If confirmed, the death toll would be the highest ever in clashes between militants and the military unit charged with calming the southern area, from which crude is pumped in the country that is Africa's biggest oil producer.

Militants have stepped up attacks in nearly three years of violence aimed at forcing the federal government to send more oil industry funds to the Niger Delta. The region remains deeply impoverished despite five decades of lucrative production.

All-out attacks on the military are rare, since the militants do not seek to separate from Nigeria.

Militants tend to focus their efforts instead on destroying oil pipelines and other infrastructure, trying to cut oil exports and send global crude prices higher. That increases pressure on the government.

The militants said the attacks in Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta states came shortly after sunset and involved fighters wielding machine guns, rocket propelled grades and anti-tank missiles they used on Nigerian military personnel at close range.

They said that the raids came in response for civilian deaths caused by the military shooting at boats plying the myriad creeks and rivers in the region. The military has denied any civilians died in recent weeks.

Gustav destroys homes, sparks flooding in Cuba

HAVANA (AP)—Hurricane Gustav smashed tens of thousands of homes, toppled trees and telephone poles and washed out roads in Cuba, but no deaths were reported Sunday as the massive storm roared away from the island.

Gustav made a direct hit on the Isla de la Juventud south of the Cuban mainland as a powerful Category 4 hurricane on Saturday with screaming 140 mph (220 kph) winds. It then passed across the country's western tip before heading into the Gulf of Mexico on a collision course with the southern United States.

The storm damaged or destroyed 86,000 homes and downed 80 electricity towers across the island, said Col. Miguel Angel Puig, head of operations for Cuban civil defense.

Speaking on a government news round-table program, Puig said 19 people were injured, though none gravely. Most of the 250,000 residents who were evacuated to shelters were back home by Sunday evening.

A woman walks past the rubble of a house destroyed by Hurricane Gustav in La Palma, Cuba, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008. AP

On Isla de la Juventud, surging waters tossed a transport ferry from its moorings into a neighborhood in the city of Nueva Gerona, and knocked down radio and television towers. The storm snapped fruit trees, flooded all major roads and demolished homes.

In Pinar del Rio, the western tobacco-producing region, highways were blocked by fallen trees and downed power lines, and all public transportation ground to a halt. People who lost their homes gathered in nearby fields, and Puig said authorities were working to relocate those left homeless by the storm. He did not say how many of the 86,000 damaged homes had been destroyed, however.

Palestinians reject partial peace accord

JERUSALEM (AP)—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas rejected Israel's idea of an interim peace agreement at a Sunday summit, a Palestinian negotiator said, insisting on an all-or-nothing approach that virtually ruled out an accord by a January target date.

The latest meeting between Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was their shortest, lasting less than an hour. Neither side pointed to progress.

Olmert entered the meeting in a weakened position after his decision to submit his resignation this month when his party picks a new leader. Just two days before Abbas arrived for talks at Olmert's residence Sunday, Israeli police passed through the same entrance to interrogate Olmert for the seventh time in a series of corruption cases.

Abbas, too, is not in a strong political position, having lost control of Gaza to Islamic Hamas militants last year.

Because of Israel's complicated political system, Olmert could still find himself in office next year, even if he resigns this month as promised. His aides said Sunday he hoped the Palestinians would sign a document outlining any agreements reached with Israel before he leaves office.

But Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said Abbas flatly rejected that at the brief summit on Sunday.

"We want an agreement to end the (Israeli) occupation and establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital," Erekat told The Associated Press. "President Abbas told Olmert that we will not be part of an interim or shelf agreement," he said. "Either we agree on all issues, or no agreement at all."

Zimbabwe doctors' advice: Don't ever get sick

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—The advice of doctors to Zimbabweans is, don't get sick. If you do, don't count on hospitals - they're short of drugs and functioning equipment.

As the economy collapses, the laboratory at a main 1,000-bed hospital has virtually shut down. X-ray materials, injectable antibiotics and anticonvulsants have run out.

Emergency resuscitation equipment is out of action. Patients needing casts for broken bones need to bring their own plaster. In a country with one of the world's worst AIDS epidemics, medical staff lack protective gloves.

Health authorities blame the drying up of foreign aid under Western sanctions imposed to end political and human rights abuses under President Robert Mugabe. A power-sharing agreement aimed at bringing the opposition into the government could open the gates to foreign aid. But negotiations have stalled over how much power rests with Mugabe.

Meanwhile, the economic meltdown is evident in empty store shelves, long lines at gas stations - and hospitals where elevators don't work and patients are carried to upper wards in makeshift hammocks of torn sheets and blankets.

Jacob Kwaramba, an insurance clerk, brought his brother to Harare's Parirenyatwa hospital, once the pride of health services in southern Africa. Emergency room doctors sent Kwaramba to a private pharmacy to buy drugs for his brother's lung infection. He returned two hours later to find his brother dead, he told the AP in the emergency room.

"I couldn't believe it. It wasn't a fatal illness," he said.

Another family said a relative dying of cancer was sent home, and no painkillers could be found in Harare pharmacies. Relatives abroad were able to pay for morphine, but by the time import clearance was obtained from the state Medicines Control Authority, the man had died in agony, the family said, requesting anonymity for fear of government retribution.

AP

People seen sitting just outside the Parirenyatwa government hospital in Harare, Zimbabwe, Thursday Aug. 21, 2008.

Overdrive

Consumers picked to test hydrogen car prototypes

WASHINGTON (AP)—Tom Albert drove his loaner Chevrolet Equinox like any other car.

He took it to work during the week, picked up groceries, and loaded up the back with bags of soil at the garden store. When his infant son was fussy, Albert drove the newborn around the block to calm him down.

The normal driving experience ended, however, when it came time to fuel the car. Aboard the silent vehicle, Albert had two filling stations to choose from in the Washington, D.C., area, and the fuel—hydrogen—was anything but typical.

Albert's no-cost behind-the-wheel experience last spring was part of an ongoing program by General Motors Corp. to see if next-generation vehicles powered by hydrogen can become a reality. Automakers such as GM, Honda Motor Co. and BMW AG are putting several hundred vehicles into suburban garages, in cities and on the highway to see how they fare in day-to-day driving.

"I heard about it on one of the local news stations on my commute in, that they were offering the chance to drive these," said Albert, an engineer who has always enjoyed tinkering with cars and applied online to participate. "For some reason they picked me."

Hydrogen fuel cells have been part of the auto industry's roster of advanced vehicles for years, and several companies are testing small fleets. They gained attention when President Bush announced in 2003 that the government would invest $1.2 billion to encourage their development.

Albert was among a small number of testers participating in "Project Driveway," a program that allowed customers to provide feedback on the Chevrolet Equinox electric hydrogen fuel cell vehicle.

GM chose participants who live near a fueling station based on their level of interest in fuel cell technology and enthusiasm for new technology. The company covered the cost of the hydrogen fuel, insurance and maintenance.

AP

Thomas Albert, of Alexandria, Va., tries to fuel his Chevrolet Equinox Electric Fuel Cell Vehicle at a Shell Hydrogen Fueling station in Washington on Wednesday June 25, 2008.

The Equinox, which holds about 4 kilograms of pressured hydrogen in tanks, generates electricity from a reaction between hydrogen and oxygen and delivers the gasoline equivalent of about 43 miles per gallon. While hydrogen is highly flammable, the hydrogen would diffuse into the air in a nonflammable concentration if one of the tanks was punctured or leaked.

The zero-emissions vehicles, which emit droplets of water, still face high hurdles because of a lack of fueling stations and the high cost of developing the cars. Auto companies do not disclose costs, but the vehicles can cost $1 million and beyond because most are hand-built prototypes.

Hydrogen is typically extracted from natural gas, oil and coal, releasing carbon dioxide from those fuels into the atmosphere. Industry officials say using fossil fuels to make hydrogen is a transitional step, with the ultimate goal to produce it widely through renewable energy sources.

Patrick Serfass, director of technology development for the National Hydrogen Association, said using natural gas to produce hydrogen emits half the amount of overall emissions compared with a conventional gasoline-fueled vehicle.

The test drives are being held while consumers are paying close to $4 for a gallon of gasoline, offering a window into what petroleum-free driving might look like.

The industry estimates hydrogen can be produced for $3 a gallon of gasoline equivalent with current technology, while the government's target is for the fuel to be available at $1.50 per gallon of gasoline equivalent by 2010.

Ford workers catch glimpse of future cars

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP)—As Ford Motor Co. faces perhaps the most difficult period in its 105-year history, the company is trying to boost employee confidence by showing them - and letting them drive - the vehicles it hopes will pull the storied automaker out of the financial basement.

Last week, Ford started pulling around 4,000 workers from their desks at sites near the Dearborn headquarters and onto a test track for a few hours of driving and learning about how Ford hopes to set its vehicles apart from other automakers.

"There's obviously some worry," product creation worker Sejal Shreffler said Monday after sitting in a Mondeo, Ford's European midsize sedan that eventually will make its way to the U.S. when Ford begins manufacturing midsize cars globally. "It certainly seems like if we could get some of these vehicles over here we'd be headed in a better direction."

Ford is hoping the workers who go through the sessions, scheduled to run into next week, will be able to talk up the company's vehicles, but it also hopes to boost confidence that Ford has products coming that people will want to buy.

First the workers went into a tent where engineers and other trainers told them about how Ford wants to set itself apart with features such as sportier-driving vehicles, comfortable but firm seats, solid-feeling switches and dashboard instruments that set the brands apart. In Ford brand vehicles, for instance, all vehicles will have dark-blue lighted instruments. Vehicles, including a 2010 Mustang, a Mondeo and even a small European van, were on display.

AP

Ford Motor Company employee Andrew Sarkisian, right, smiles after driving a 2009 Ford Focus as other employees get their turn to test drive the vehicle at Ford's proving ground in Dearborn, Mich., Monday, Aug. 18, 2008.

Then it was off to the test track, where the workers split into groups to drive everything from a prototype hydrogen fuel cell-powered Focus to a Lincoln MKS luxury sedan with a new turbocharged V-6 engine that has the power of a V-8 with around 20 percent better gas mileage.

"I could get in trouble with this," electrical engineer Bill Morris said after zipping through some bumpy curves in an MKS equipped with the turbo engine, which Ford has named EcoBoost. The engines will roll out in the MKS starting in early 2009.

Morris, a 6-year employee who works on everything from radios to wiring harnesses, said he was thrilled to drive the company's new offerings.

Many workers, some with more than 30 years at Ford, said the company has done product displays in the past, but never anything this extensive. Some said they often are focused on their work and don't have time to see the end product.

"It's definitely nice to get into the vehicles and actually see them and drive," said Shreffler.

Most of the vehicles the workers were able to drive were 2009 or 2010 models of cars and trucks currently on the market, a vehicle lineup that for the most part hasn't sold well this year.

Motorists turn to carpool sites as gas prices rise

NEW YORK (AP)—Robert Gilliland didn't think much about carpooling until gas prices got out of control. Now, he's happy to trade his motoring freedom for $120 in weekly savings.

Gilliland found one rider through the classifieds Web site Craigslist and another using the carpool-matching service eRideShare.com. Thousands of commuters like him have turned to the Internet to arrange shared rides as average gas prices hover around $4 a gallon.

Each day, Gilliland picks up Brian McKenzie near his home in Lakeland, Fla., and Mike Rogers in Seffner on his way to work. He drops off McKenzie in Tampa and Rogers in Clearwater, where Gilliland works as a construction designer. He reverses that for the commute home.

The extra stops add up to an hour in round-trip commuting, meaning he could be spending three hours a day in his Ford Taurus, but the alternative is to shell out $150 a week out of his own pocket. With carpooling, his two passengers contribute $60 a piece; he pays only half of that to factor in wear and tear on his car.

"We've become friends," Gilliland said. "It's been a good experience for me socially as well as economically."

Gas prices have climbed even higher in the year-plus since Gilliland started carpooling. The number of daily visitors to eRideShare has jumped about threefold since February, when gas started to climb from the $3-a-gallon range. A rival site, Carpoolworld.com, had about 4,400 new U.S. registrations in both June and July, compared with some 800 in February. Although some people turned to these sites long ago to help reduce pollution or take advantage of faster, high-occupancy vehicle lanes that require at least two occupants, the pocketbook has been the largest influencer of all.

AP

Robert Gilliland, foreground, of Lakeland, Fla., poses for a photo with fellow carpoolers Mike Rogers, left, and Brian McKenzie, Thursday morning, Aug. 7, 2008 in Seffner, Fla. Thousands of commuters like Gilliland have also turned to the Internet to arrange shared rides as average gas prices hover around $4 a gallon.

"People are well aware of global warming, ... but it takes the price of gasoline to get them to take that step," said Steven Schoeffler, founder of eRideShare in Edwardsville, Ill. "It's something they wanted to do anyway but maybe needed a little extra impetus."

The various carpooling sites vary in how they connect commuters.

Craigslist offers straightforward classified listings, alongside the ads for new roommates and used furniture, for instance, while Zimride's Carpool works as a Facebook application, tapping the personal profiles users keep at the popular online hangout. Zimride also lets users rate others akin to eBay Inc.'s feedback system.

Even governments are jumping in. A program run by the Seattle-area King County Metro Transit has been online since 2001, while the Vermont Agency of Transportation wants to start automating by this fall a commuter-matching service it now runs manually by phone.

Life & Style

Dissident Cuban rocker fined $28, freed

HAVANA (AP)—A Cuban punk rocker known for his raunchy lyrics criticizing Fidel Castro was convicted of public disorder Friday, but freed after a court dismissed a more serious "social dangerousness" charge that could have sent him to prison for four years.

Following a two-hour trial, the court ordered Gorki Aguila to pay 600 pesos (US$28) and released the 39-year-old singer.

"I am very proud of all the people who have supported me, and I feel even more hate for this tyranny," Aguilar told reporters upon his release.

The fine is big money in a country where nearly everyone, Aguila included, works for the state and takes home an average of 408 pesos (US$19.50) per month.

But Aguila would have faced far more severe punishment had he been convicted of "social dangerousness," which the government defines as violating "communist morality." That charge is often used to detain would-be offenders before they have a chance to commit a crime.

AP

Punk rocker Gorki Aguila, center, is escorted by police officers upon arrival for his trial in Havana, Friday, Aug. 29, 2008.

Elizardo Sanchez, head of the independent Cuban Commission on Human Rights and National Reconciliation took the unusual step of attending the trial - which was open to Aguila's father and band mates as well as about 10 of his supporters, but closed to reporters.

"The prosecution asked for a fine," said Sanchez, whose group is not recognized but largely tolerated by Cuba's communist government. "Fortunately, there will be no more time in prison."

Aguila was arrested Monday as his band, Porno para Ricardo, rehearsed at the modest Havana apartment he shares with his father. The case sparked international outcry but caused little stir on the island, where the band has only a small but devoted following.

Aguila was previously arrested in 2005 on drug charges that he says were fabricated because authorities objected to his music.

Founded 10 years ago, the band—whose name means "Porno for Ricardo"—is known for ridiculing the communist system, especially Castro, 82 and ailing, and his younger brother Raul, who became president in February. Its songs at one time were broadcast on state radio and TV, but the group was later banned and has resorted to small, occasional concerts in underground venues.

With long and wild curly black hair and healthy stubble, Aguila grinned and waved to supporters as officers loaded him in a police cruiser and drove him home. He will be allowed to pay his fine over time.

Aguila said Cuban authorities "want to teach me a lesson every chance they get," but were shocked by the international uproar. "There were a lot of repercussions, and they were very afraid."

Sanchez said Friday before the trial that the "dangerousness" charge usually results in jail time for people who have not committed any crime.

"Because of 'social dangerousness,' thousands and thousands of Cubans are in prison," he said.

Band Guitarist Ciro Diaz said authorities told Aguila's state-assigned attorney he was arrested for being "an anti-social."

"His lawyer said he talked to the prosecutors, and that a judge told them this was a political trial," Diaz said outside the courthouse. "That this was about an undesirable in the neighborhood who made songs with lyrics against the system, against Fidel and everything else."

Diaz said he and a friend were roughed up and arrested by state agents the previous night after they held up a handwritten sign reading "Gorki" at an open-air concert by legendary Cuban singer Pablo Milanes. He said they were treated for minor injuries and then interrogated for hours before being released without charge.

Gathered outside the courthouse before the trial were human rights observers from the Canadian and Dutch embassies, as well as an official from the U.S. Interests Section.

TV networks shifting from politics to storm

NEW YORK (AP)—Television networks rapidly shifted focus and personnel away from the Republican national convention to Gulf Coast communities in the path of Hurricane Gustav on Sunday, wondering how much of their political planning will be for naught.

Anchors Katie Couric, Charles Gibson, Brian Williams, Anderson Cooper and Shepard Smith were all going to the New Orleans area for the storm instead of being with Republicans in St. Paul, Minn.

Whether they will be heading north at all depends on the strength of the storm at Monday's expected landfall. President Bush and Vice President Cheney both canceled plans to be at the convention, where they were to be featured Monday, and the GOP was considering other changes to its program.

"We're going to go with the biggest story of the day tomorrow," said Jay Wallace, a news vice president at Fox News Channel, "and right now the biggest story of the day is the storm."

Along with Smith, Fox was sending Geraldo Rivera and at least a dozen crews to the Gulf. Fox had been anticipating a big week in St. Paul; its ratings topped every broadcast and cable network at the 2004 GOP convention.

It's unclear how viewers will respond this time if the storm eclipses the convention as a story.

Wolf Blitzer was anchoring CNN on Sunday from the nearly empty convention floor, yet he was talking mostly about the hurricane. Sunday on the cable networks would have otherwise been dominated by political stories - as it was the day before the Democratic convention last week in Denver - but much of the political talk this week concerned the storm's impact on Republicans.

AP

Members of the Louisiana delegation to the Republican National Convention watch at their hotel bar Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008 in Brooklyn Center, Minn., as Rick Davis, campaign manager for Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., is seen on the television screen talking about changes to the convention in St. Paul in light of Hurricane Gustav.

"These two stories are obviously interwoven right now," said Sam Feist, CNN's political director.

Even in the few times politics came up, the cable news networks usually kept an angry orange satellite picture of Gustav in the corner. At one point when Karl Rove was discussing Republican vice presidential choice Sarah Palin on Fox News Channel, his picture was crowded into one-fourth of the screen.

A bright red hurricane insignia spun into the picture, complete with whooshing noise, when MSNBC moved between stories.

ABC's Gibson decided to anchor "World News" on Sunday from New Orleans. George Stephanopoulos was staying in St. Paul, but Chris Cuomo of "Good Morning America" will be in the Gulf Monday. Diane Sawyer, who went to the Democratic convention, will be in New York Monday and her future travel plans were uncertain.

CBS pulled two crews from the convention and sent them south. Harry Smith of "The Early Show" planned to join Couric and several correspondents in the Gulf region.

Williams was going to stop to interview GOP candidate John McCain before he arrives in New Orleans, said NBC News President Steve Capus. Anchor emeritus Tom Brokaw will anchor the network's GOP coverage.

Entertainment magazines new on campaign trail

NEW YORK (AP)—As she inspected the stage where she would later address the Democratic National Convention, a look of recognition flickered across Hillary Rodham Clinton's face when she peered out to see who had asked how she was.

"Good! Glad to see you," she called out to Kevin Frazier of "Entertainment Tonight."

She always enjoys seeing him, Clinton added. It was such a paydirt moment that the syndicated newsmagazine used it at the top of its show last week - not once but twice. When you cover celebrities, there's nothing better than letting viewers know that a celebrity recognizes you.

And who are bigger celebrities this year than the people seeking the presidency?

The turf for magazine shows like "ET," "Access Hollywood" and "The Insider," usually more interested in Angelina Jolie or Lindsey Lohan, has expanded from red carpets to campaign rallies. The new interest is evident in all the convention coverage.

AP

Television personality Maria Menounos poses for a photograph at Invesco Field, site of the final day of the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Thursday, Aug. 28, 2008.

Oprah Winfrey's endorsement of Obama was a key moment in turning the attention of these shows to politics, said Bill Carroll, an expert in the syndication market for Katz Television. "Wherever the celebrities are, that's where the celebrity magazines are going to be," he said.

Richard Dreyfuss, Ben Affleck, Sarah Silverman and Anne Hathaway were among those interviewed at the convention last week. Yet the shows weren't simply star-struck. When nearly 40 million people watch Barack Obama's acceptance speech, it's more than a celebrity issue.

"You have to tap into the water-cooler stories that the people are talking about," said Charles Lachman, executive producer of "Inside Edition." "If you don't, you won't have much relevance for your viewers."

Obama's campaign feels like it's reliving the glamour of the Kennedy years, said Rob Silverstein, executive producer of "Access Hollywood" "That's an attraction for us," he said.

The programs are one more stop on a long media road for presidential contenders, who are expected to show they have a sense of humor on the "Tonight" show or "The Daily Show." The syndicated newsmagazines reach 4 million to 5 million people each day, offering generally painless, puffery - although there are pitfalls. Obama said he regretted it soon after allowing his children to sit in on an "Access Hollywood" interview.

With the more serious campaign issues addressed on network newscasts that usually run in the same evening hours, the newsmagazines must look for something different.

Hence a voiceover like this for Maria Menounos' report on "Access Hollywood" last week: "Is there an Obama celebrity backlash? We investigate."

'Dark Knight' swings past $500

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Batman's rich alter-ego Bruce Wayne has added half a billion dollars to his riches. "The Dark Knight" on Sunday became the second movie in Hollywood history to top $500 million at the domestic box office, raising its total to $502.4 million, according to estimates from distributor Warner Bros.

The film hit that mark in just over six weeks, half the time it took "Titanic," which reached $500 million in a little more than three months. "Titanic," the biggest modern blockbuster, remains No. 1 on the domestic charts with $600.8 million.

Despite its brisk pace, "The Dark Knight" is not expected to approach the total for "Titanic," which put up smaller numbers week after week but lingered at the top of the box office for months.

Dan Fellman, head of distribution at Warner Bros., said he expects "The Dark Knight" to finish at about $530 million, though it could reach $550 million if business persists as strongly as it has.

"I keep raising the number because it just keeps holding better than expected," Fellman said.

"The Dark Knight" will climb to about $505 million by Labor Day, the conclusion of Hollywood's busy summer season. That amounts to nearly one-eighth of Hollywood's overall summer revenue of $4.2 billion, which edges the previous summer record of $4.18 billion set last year, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

Factoring in today's higher admission prices, "The Dark Knight" would need to take in about $900 million to match the number of tickets sold by "Titanic."

Labor Day weekend was generally sleepy at theaters, with a rush of new movies failing to find much favor with audiences. Through Sunday, Paramount's comedy "Tropic Thunder" remained No. 1 for the third straight weekend with $11.5 million.

The 20th Century Fox sci-fi thriller "Babylon A.D." with Vin Diesel debuted in second place with $9.7 million, while Overture Films' espionage drama "Traitor," starring Don Cheadle, opened at No. 5 with $7.9 million.

Premiering at No. 7 was Lionsgate's spoof flick "Disaster Movie" with $6.2 million. MGM's campus comedy "College" opened well outside the top 10 with $2.1 million.

The top 12 movies took in $75.2 million, down 23 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Halloween" opened with $26.4 million.

"This is kind of an inauspicious end to a really incredible summer," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers. "We limped past the finish line."

In this file image originally released by Warner Bros., Heath Ledger starring as The Joker, is shown in a scene with Christian Bale, starring as Batman in "The Dark Knight." Film starts showing in Germany on Thursday, Aug. 21, 2008.

AP

German studio offers 'Valkyrie' extras settlement

BERLIN (AP)—A German film studio has offered to negotiate a settlement with a dozen extras who were injured on the set of the Tom Cruise film "Valkyrie," despite their demands that the actor and his production company, United Artists, pay them $11 million.

"We have offered a settlement," Charles Woebcken, president and chief executive of Studio Babelsberg AG, which co-produced the film with United Artists. "But they haven't even reacted."

Though United Artists did not hire them, the 12 extras sent the company a letter demanding $11 million for injuries when the door of a truck they were riding in during the film shoot in August 2007 fell open. At the time, reports said several suffered cuts, bruises and some broken bones. A statement from Julie Polkes, spokeswoman for Cruise and United Artists, said the production company does not comment on "pending or threatened legal matters."

"To date, no lawsuits have been filed against United Artists or Mr. Cruise, nor have any allegations been made of any involvement of Mr. Cruise in this incident," the statement read. "All press reports and comments to the press stating otherwise and designed to generate sensational headlines are false." The extras were hired by Achte Babelsberg Film GmbH, a sister company of Studio Babelsberg. Woebcken said there was a thorough investigation of the incident and, a week later, the legal department sent a letter to the extras' attorney to begin the negotiation process for settlement.

The letter said the vehicle was inspected by authorities and was in full working order; the problem, according to the letter, was an operator error of the door locking mechanism.

"Please tell us what injuries your client suffered, with necessary evidence from a doctor. We would then make proposals for compensation," the letter from Babelsberg said.

They received no response, Woebcken said.

Ariane Bluttner, the Berlin-based attorney for the actors, said they answered some inquiries from Babelsberg lawyers but received no offers of compensation. Bluttner said Tom Cruise and United Artists must be responsible for the actions of its contractors.

"Mr. Cruise, Ms. Wagner and United Artists Entertainment did not exercise reasonable care to select a reasonably competent, experienced, careful and properly equipped contractor," Bluttner wrote in an e-mail Thursday.

Woebcken criticized the extras and Bluttner for going directly to United Artists, calling it a publicity stunt, and said his company's legal department would handle any claims. Instead, Woebcken said they should have approached Achte Babelsberg, then Babelsberg Film GmbH, then Studio Babelsberg.

"In America, these things happen," he said, referring to the $11 million demand. "You have a different system in Germany. If you lose an arm, it's not worth a million dollars. This (is) a broken rib."

AP

In this image released by MGM and United Artists, Tom Cruise is shown in a scene from the film, "Valkyrie."

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Babylon A.D.

Friday		4:00	7:10	9:35
Sat and Sun	1:15	4:00	7:10	9:35
Monday	1:15	4:00	7:10	
Tue thru Thurs		4:00	7:10	

Vin Diesel, Michelle Yeoh
Drama, Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
It is the not-too-distant future. Thousands of satellites scan, observe and monitor our every move. Much of the planet is a war zone; the rest, a collection of wretched way stations, teeming megalopolises, and vast wastelands punctuated by areas left radioactive from nuclear meltdowns. It is a world made for hardened warriors, one of whom, a mercenary known only as Toorop, lives by a simple survivor's code: kill or be killed. His latest assignment has him smuggling a young woman named Aurora from a convent in Kazakhstan to New York City.

Traitor

Friday		4:10	7:25	9:40
Sat and Sun	1:20	4:10	7:25	9:40
Monday	1:20	4:10	7:25	
Tue thru Thurs		4:10	7:25	

Don Cheadle, Guy Pearce
Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
When straight arrow FBI agent Roy Clayton heads up the investigation into a dangerous international conspiracy, all clues seem to lead back to former U.S. Special Operations officer, Samir Horn. A mysterious figure with a web of connections to terrorist organizations, Horn has a knack for emerging on the scene just as a major operation goes down. The inter-agency task force looking into the case meets with Carter, a veteran CIA contractor who seemingly has his own agenda and Max Archer, a fellow FBI agent.

★ ★ ★

Death Race

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:55
Sat and Sun	1:25	4:30	7:20	9:55
Monday	1:25	4:30	7:20	
Tue thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Jason Statham, Tyrese Gibson
Action, Thriller • Rated R

Mirrors

Friday		4:25	7:30	9:45
Sat and Dun	1:30	4:25	7:30	9:45
Monday	1:30	4:25	7:30	
Tue thru Thurs		4:25	7:30	

Kiefer Sutherland, Paula Patton
Thriller, Horror • Rated R

Tropic Thunder

Friday		4:20	7:15	10:00
Sat and Sun	1:10	4:20	7:15	10:00
Monday	1:10	4:20	7:15	
Tue thru Thurs		4:20	7:15	

Ben Stiller, Jack Black
Comedy • Rated R

The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor

Friday		4:15	7:05	9:30
Sat and Sun	1:05	4:15	7:05	9:30
Monday	1:05	4:15	7:05	
Tue thru Thurs		4:15	7:05	

Brendan Fraser, Jet Li
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Dark Knight

Friday		@	7:00	@	
Sat and Sun	1:00	@	7:00	@	
Monday	1:00	@	7:00		
Tue thru Thurs		@	7:00		

Christian Bale, Heath Ledger
Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Star Wars: The Clone Wars

Friday			4:05	@	9:50
Sat ans Sun		@	4:05	@	9:50
Monday		@	4:05	@	
Tue thru Thurs			4:05	@	

Christopher Lee, Anthony Daniels
Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Animated • Rated PG

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Fans queue to snag tickets to see Oprah, Olympians

CHICAGO (AP)—Fans began lining up at 6 a.m. Saturday for a chance to snag free tickets to "The Oprah Winfrey Show" season premiere featuring 150 U.S. Olympic athletes.

By noon, the line of Winfrey fans and U.S. Olympic supporters stretched nearly six city blocks in Chicago's Millennium Park. The show will air Sept. 8 and include appearances by gold medalists Michael Phelps, Nastia Liukin and Kobe Bryant.

Tickets for the Winfrey's tapings are usually available only by phone and nearly impossible to get, so fans were itching for the 2,000 seats up for grabs for Wednesday's taping.

"We do love Oprah," said 20-year-old Loyola University student Grace Sutherland, who left her apartment at 4 a.m. to wait in line. "But the Olympic athletes, they are real role models. This is the America we like to see."

Jeanne Kaspar, 40, of Naperville, Ill., said that although the Olympians are inspiring, Winfrey's accomplishments will resonate long after the athletes' successes are forgotten.

"Oprah shattered the glass ceiling for women," Kaspar said. "She's shown a woman can run companies, can lead philanthropic organizations, can do really anything."

AP

Oprah Winfrey speaks in Whitesboro, N.J. Satuday, Aug. 30, 2008. Winfrey is scheduled to be the keynote speaker Saturday at the annual festival in Whitesboro, a tiny, rural community founded in 1901 as a settlement for blacks leaving the South.

Organizers began passing out tickets at noon Saturday.

For those unable to get tickets Saturday, approximately 7,000 festival-style lawn seats would be available Wednesday, said Monica Cebula, special events coordinator for Millennium Park. Another 2,000 seats have been set aside for the Olympians' families and friends.

Winfrey's Harpo Productions said the show is a "welcome home celebration" for the athletes and a chance to feature Chicago in the city's bid for the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Chicago is a finalist for the 2016 games along with Tokyo; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and Madrid, Spain. The International Olympic Committee will choose the 2016 host next year.

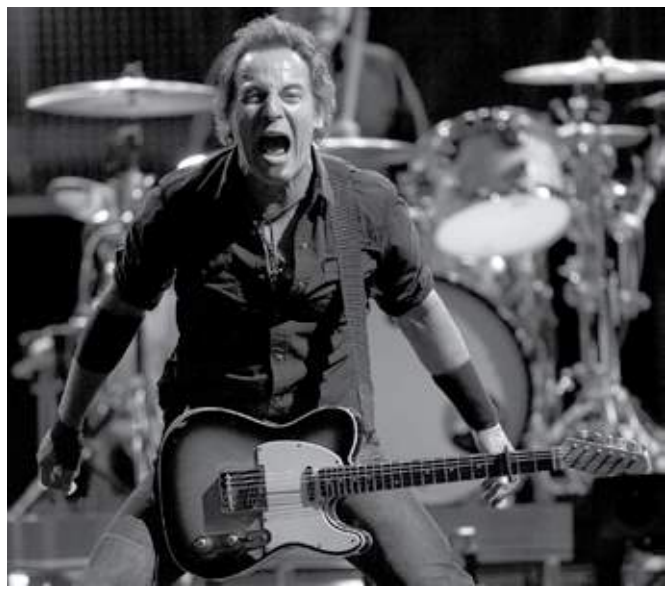
Springsteen ends world tour at Harley celebration

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Bruce Springsteen ended his world tour over the weekend, toned down but revved up.

Springsteen played more than 30 songs over 3 1/2 hours Saturday night on Milwaukee's lakefront for Harley-Davidson's 105th anniversary celebration. He made few comments between songs. Only for a few moments before "Livin' in the Future" did the rocker - who often brings his liberal-leaning political comments to the stage - stray into politics.

Springsteen performed to a crowd not unlike the one that gave Republican presidential candidate John McCain a warm welcome Aug. 4 at the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in South Dakota. Many roared their motorcycles during McCain's speech.

Springsteen said "Livin' in the Future" was about what was happening now: cheese, Harley-Davidson motorcycles (tailoring it to his Wisconsin crowd), trans-fats, "500 channels of nothing on" and the Bill of Rights.



AP

Bruce Springsteen performs at the Harley Davidson 105th anniversary celebration Saturday, Aug. 30, 2008, in Milwaukee.

But he also mentioned wire tapping and rendition - the secret transport of terror suspects from one country to another.

"Things that basically at the heart are un-American," he said. The crowd gave spattered groans but mostly stayed silent.

He did not play "Born in the U.S.A," his anthem about the difficulties Vietnam war veterans faced, or the anti-war ballad "Devils and Dust" about Iraq.

Springsteen's Saturday performance was his last stop on his tour. His Web site said Springsteen and the E Street Band have performed 100 concerts for more than 2 million fans.

Milwaukee-based Harley-Davidson expected more than 100,000 people from around the nation and world to participate in the four-day celebration that officially started Thursday in Milwaukee and its suburbs. It included a parade through the city, a party along the lake, activities at the new Harley-Davidson Museum, a special exhibit at Discovery World and other big-name bands.

Burning Man fest nears end

RENO, Nev. (AP)—The party is drawing to a close at the annual Burning Man festival on the northern Nevada desert.

Participants in the eclectic art and music event had planned to burn more artwork Sunday night before its Labor Day conclusion.

The celebration of radical self-expression climaxed late Saturday night with the torching of its 40-foot signature effigy. A dust storm prompted many participants to leave the Black Rock Desert before the finale.

The crowd for the weeklong celebration peaked Saturday at a record 49,599, up from 47,097 last year.

U.S. Bureau of Land Management officials said the festival ran smoothly and no major problems were reported. They made 11 arrests and issued 175 citations to participants, most for drug violations, BLM officials said.

Burning Man began in 1986 at San Francisco's Baker Beach and was moved in 1990 to the Black Rock Desert, about 110 miles north of Reno.

AP

'The Man' burns during the Burning Man festival in the Black Rock Desert near Gerlach, Nev., on Saturday, Aug. 30, 2008.

Loving neighbors stand in for grandparents far away

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Nobody's Grandma" (June 12) is sad about her children's desire to remain childless. I would encourage her to seek out a family in her neighborhood, church or other shared connections who live far from family or have no grandparents.

I lived far from both sets of grandparents when I was young. An older couple who lived next door "adopted" us. They invited my siblings and me over to bake cookies and play cards, and filled the grandparent void in our young lives. In turn, we looked out for them and included them in our family events.

They were dear, special people to whom I remain indebted for their love and kindness. My children now play with the handcrafted toys from "Grandpa's" workshop, and I still make "Grandma's" wonderful angel food cake.

AN ADOPTED GRANDCHILD
IN WAYNESVILLE, OHIO

DEAR GRANDCHILD: Your experience with your adopted grandparents exemplifies my advice to "Nobody's Grandma." While many of my readers agreed with me, a few offered a different perspective. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: The offspring of "Nobody's Grandma" should be congratulated on their decision. Worldwide food shortages, poverty, pollution, global warming and religious bigotry against birth control have resulted in the greatest crisis facing the world today—overpopulation.

AN 83-YEAR-OLD "OPA"

DEAR ABBY: Have you heard of the Foster Grandparent Program? It's a federal program for people 60 years old and over. We work with children who need a little extra help in schools or in other areas where needed. The children I "foster" say I'm more like a grandma to them than some of their own grandmothers. I love and nurture them like my own -- and I have 26 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

GRANDMA ANITA

DEAR ABBY: I sympathize with "Nobody's Grandma." I will probably never have grandchildren either because my only child has developmental disabilities. Sometimes I feel cheated, but I have learned it is better to appreciate what you have and to accept what you can't change.

C.T. IN HAWAII

DEAR ABBY: Although my wife and I are blessed with nine biological grandkids, with No. 10 on the way, about a dozen or more children call us "Grandma" and "Grandpa." While our kids were growing up, we tended to informally collect other kids from less-than-happy homes who called us Mom and Dad. These young folks grew up and had children of their own who consider us their grandparents.

Look around your community. There are many children who desperately need grandparents to love and be loved by. Your life, as well as theirs, will be greatly enriched.

EVERYBODY'S GRANDPA

DEAR ABBY: When I was born, "Aunt Sarah," a semi-retired colleague of Mom's, offered to baby-sit once a week to give my mom a chance to run errands. Aunt Sarah became an adopted grandmother to my brothers and me. She would play games with us, take us to fast-food restaurants, and to a playground afterward to burn off our burgers and fries. She always made sure we were well-dressed and even gave us money for college.

Aunt Sarah passed away a few months ago, but I'm fortunate to have had her in my life for 26 years. I hope "Nobody's Grandma" will take your suggestion to heart. She and her husband could have a great impact on the lives of some very lucky children.

SARAH'S GRANDDAUGHTER

■ ■ ■

CONFIDENTIAL TO MY MUSLIM READERS: Ramadan is beginning -- may your fast be an easy one!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'M HUNGRY.
TOO BAD. BREAKFAST ISN'T UNTIL TOMORROW.
MY TUMMY'S GROWLING.
HUSH.
MOST PEOPLE DON'T SLEEP WELL NEXT TO A HUNGRY TIGER.
SOMETIMES I SURE WISH I HAD A DOG.
MORE TUNA AND LESS MAYONNAISE.
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

LIZ IS GOING TO CALL ME!
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By Bryan Basset

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WAAAA
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH QUIETER IT IS WITH KATY AND CLAYTON BACK IN SCHOOL.
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9/2

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

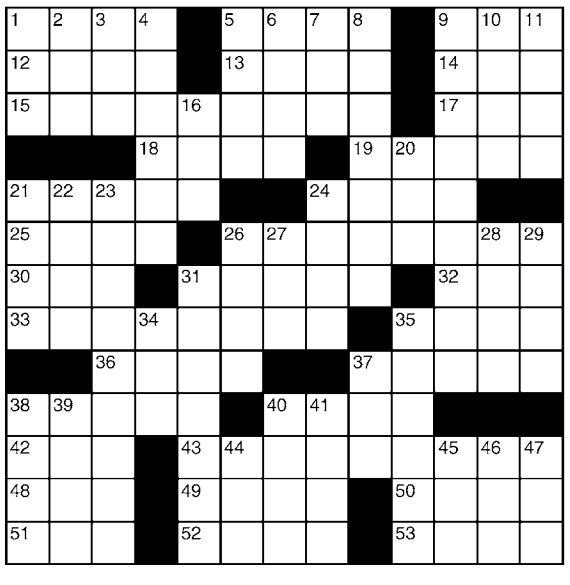
ACROSS
1 Answer an invite
5 Dandling locale
9 Clothing protector
12 Tom Joad, e.g.
13 Slithery
14 Big fuss
15 Its participants must form a line
17 Fresh
18 A deadly sin
19 Within the rules
21 Cavalry sword
24 Golf legend Tony
25 Advertise
26 Burger flippers
30 A billion years
31 Casual pants
32 Keatsian poem
33 Paris airport, familiarly
35 Met melody
36 King of Siam's employee
37 Concerning
38 Untrue
40 Othello's foe
42 Judge Lance
43 It was beat by beatniks
48 Solemn promise
49 Incite
50 Modern-day money
51 Type squares
52 The Bee —
53 Faxed

DOWN
1 Plagiarize
2 Tackle the slopes
3 — rose
4 Pirate-costume feature
5 Small barrels
6 In good order
7 Shade source
8 Shoelaces go through them
9 City of India
10 Notion
11 Cereal container
16 "Days of — Lives"
20 Ostrich's cousin
21 Raced
22 Lotion additive
23 One-story houses
24 Highway division
26 Actress Ward
27 Chum
28 Tennis situation
29 Membership
31 Late-spring beetle
34 Response (Abbr.)
35 Battery terminals
37 See 41-Down
38 Basketball team
39 Tiny particle
40 "Bus Stop" playwright
41 With 37-Down, way back when
44 Raw rock
45 Regret
46 Samovar
47 Witticism

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	O	D	O	■	L	O	B	■	A	W	E	S
O	V	E	R	H	A	U	L	■	L	O	P	E
C	A	N	B	E	R	R	A	■	K	N	I	T
■	■	■	I	N	K	■	T	H	A	T	C	H
S	T	A	T	S	■	F	A	I	L	■	■	■
P	A	L	S	■	C	A	N	D	I	D	A	■
A	L	B	■	A	L	I	C	E	■	I	N	N
■	C	A	N	N	E	R	Y	■	M	E	T	E
■	■	■	E	T	A	S	■	F	A	T	E	D
D	A	R	W	I	N	■	I	O	N	■	■	■
A	R	A	B	■	C	A	N	N	I	B	A	L
M	I	N	I	■	U	N	S	T	A	B	L	E
E	D	G	E	■	T	A	T	■	S	C	A	M

Yesterday's answer 9-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Salma Hayek, 42; Lennox Lewis, 43; Keanu Reeves, 44; Terry Bradshaw, 60

Happy Birthday: There is plenty on the line and the boundaries are limited. You will have to calculate your every move, making sure you don't waffle or give in too soon. Balance will be the key to getting what you want in the end. Take it slow and make each move strategically. Your numbers are 4, 12, 20, 26, 35, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You'll feel emotionally up and down due to what you are told and how you are treated. Nothing will be as bad as you think, so don't react. A connection you have to someone who motivates you may be questionable. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Take a break. You need some time to put things in order and decide what you want to do with the rest of your life. New places will intrigue you and a job you never considered in the past will interest you. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): A unique proposal based on your qualifications and ability to multitask will interest you. Don't be too slow to accept an opportunity or you'll have regrets. Love is in the stars and a social event will be geared toward romance. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Stick close to the people you trust and respect. The older and more experienced people will give you good advice and stand behind your every move. Your personal relationships, however, will give you mixed messages leading to misunderstandings and breakups. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Doing things that are unique will give you connections with interesting people who are inspirational and can add a spark to your ideas. Love is growing with someone who wants to spend more time with you. Try to accommodate this person. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): There will be a lot riding on how much you do. The expectations will be high and the willingness on your part to add detail and precision will seal a deal. A partnership with someone very different from yourself will form if you aren't adamant about working alone. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't get into a fight with someone. It won't be worth your time and the backlash you face will be hard to rectify. You may want to rethink your relationships and consider whether or not some of them are good for you. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't rely on others. You can get some good advice on a job you want to do at home but do the actual work yourself, if possible. Hiring someone to do something you can do yourself will be a waste of money and the job won't be done to your satisfaction. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can position yourself professionally in such a way that the demand for your talents will skyrocket. Offer a new innovative idea, concept or service. Some of the older people will fight the change but you will surpass any interference. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't underestimate the power of communication. Someone can and will twist your words around. Explain your ideas concisely. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Personally and financially you are coming into an interesting and unusual development that will make your life easier. A commitment or promise will help you achieve your dreams, hopes and wishes. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't get labeled passÈ because you are using old, outdated methods. Look to someone younger who is a little ahead of his or her time to inspire you to move in the right direction. It may be time to take on a younger partner. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have a sophisticated appeal and are creative and clever. You can be demanding, uncompromising, persuasive, charming and controlling.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				4				
	4		7		2		6	
		9	1	5	6	8		
	1	6				4	9	
2		5				3		7
	7	8				1	5	
		3	5	9	7	6		
	8		4		1		3	
				6				

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	4	8	6	9	5	7	3	1
1	7	9	3	2	8	4	5	6
5	6	3	4	7	1	8	9	2
8	2	1	9	6	3	5	4	7
6	9	4	7	5	2	3	1	8
7	3	5	1	8	4	6	2	9
9	5	7	2	4	6	1	8	3
4	1	6	8	3	9	2	7	5
3	8	2	5	1	7	9	6	4

Difficulty Level ★ 9/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EGYPTIAN COTTON **Solution: 8 letters**

T	N	E	M	T	S	E	V	N	I	T	O	U	C	H
H	A	R	V	E	S	T	E	D	U	V	E	T	U	S
R	L	T	R	R	S	T	R	A	N	D	S	S	L	S
E	U	N	E	E	E	S	R	T	U	A	S	L	T	T
A	X	A	P	N	F	Y	H	R	L	U	I	E	I	N
D	U	T	E	I	E	I	A	I	O	M	K	E	V	E
C	R	S	E	F	C	B	B	L	R	N	R	P	A	M
O	I	I	D	K	L	K	U	E	A	T	I	B	T	R
U	O	S	N	E	N	C	E	L	R	L	S	Y	E	A
N	U	E	S	K	I	N	B	D	L	O	L	A	D	G
T	S	R	O	T	C	E	T	O	R	P	U	R	E	R
Ⓢ	S	H	E	E	T	S	W	B	E	A	U	T	Y	A
Ⓞ	E	M	O	E	C	N	E	G	L	U	D	N	I	D
Ⓕ	T	W	N	E	C	N	E	L	L	E	C	X	E	E
Ⓣ	S	S	R	E	T	R	O	F	M	O	C	E	D	S

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Yesterday's Answer: Annapolis

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235- NEWS

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Sabathia throws 1-hitter in Brewers win over Pirates

PITTSBURGH (AP)—C.C. Sabathia pitched a one-hitter in his latest dominating start, allowing only an infield single as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-0 in the National League on Sunday.

Sabathia (9-0) pitched the majors' fourth one-hitter this season and couldn't have come much closer to a no-hitter, with no Pirates batter coming close except for Andy LaRoche's hit in the fifth inning.

Sabathia's 9-0 record since being dealt by Cleveland to Milwaukee on July 7 matches Doyle Alexander's 9-0 with Detroit in 1987 as the best of any pitcher traded at midseason in the last 90 seasons.

Mets 6, Marlins 2

At Miami, Pedro Martinez pitched six innings for only his second victory since July 7, Nick Evans and David Wright hit back-to-back home runs in the third innings, and Carlos Beltran added his 21st homer for New York.

The first two Florida batters to face Martinez (5-3) scored, but those were the only runs he allowed. He gave up seven hits but only one walk.

Scott Olsen (6-9) finished winless in August.

Phillies 5, Cubs 3

At Chicago, Jayson Werth hit another home run against Chicago and 45-year-old Jamie Moyer got his 12th win, helping Philadelphia salvage a split of their four-game series at Wrigley Field.

Werth hit a two-run double in the first and a solo drive in the fifth for his 21st homer of the season. Werth is 11-for-21 with four homers and 10 RBIs against the Cubs this season.

Moyer (12-7), who started his career with the Cubs in 1986, gave up eight hits and two runs in 5 1-3 innings.

Astros 3, Cardinals 0

At Houston, Ty Wigginton hit his 12th home run of August and four Houston pitchers combined to shut out St. Louis.

Houston swept the three-game series with the Cardinals and has won five straight. The Astros finished 21-9 for the month.

Starter Wandy Rodriguez (8-6) left after 5 2-3 innings with a strained right oblique muscle.

St. Louis pitcher Todd Wellemeyer (11-6) went seven innings and allowed one run and four hits.

Nationals 8, Braves 4

At Washington, Aaron Boone failed to lay down a sacrifice, then slammed a three-run, eighth-inning home run to lift Washington to its season-high sixth straight win.

Called on to bunt after a single by Ryan Zimmerman and a walk to Elijah Dukes, Boone popped Elmer Dessens' first offering foul. Boone sent the next pitch from Dessens (0-1) into the left-field bullpen for his sixth homer, his first since May 27.

Boone finished with four RBIs and Washington went on to score five times in the eighth, sending 11 men to the plate. It's the Nationals' longest winning streak since a 10-game run from June 2-12, 2005.

Reds 9, Giants 3

At Cincinnati, Joey Votto went 4-for-4 with four RBIs, Bronson Arroyo turned in another impressive start and Cincinnati beat San Francisco to complete its first three-game sweep of the Giants at home in 14 years.

Arroyo also doubled in two runs and Jeff Keppinger scored three times for Cincinnati.

Arroyo (13-10), who also recorded his first career stolen base, allowed two runs and 10 hits in seven innings. He has allowed just four runs in his last 23 innings.

Matt Cain (8-11) allowed five runs and eight hits in five innings, and tied a season high by issuing five walks. Giants pitchers also tied a season mark with nine walks overall.

Padres 2, Rockies 1

At San Diego, Trevor Hoffman blew the save after a terrific outing by Jake Peavy but Luis Rodriguez singled in the winning run in the ninth to give San Diego a victory over Colorado.

Peavy had a season-high 13 strikeouts over eight shutout innings but Hoffman (3-6) surrendered a pinch-hit RBI single to Chris Iannetta that tied it at 1. Hoffman, the career leader with 551 saves, has four blown saves this season.

Rookie Will Venable led off the bottom half with a base hit against Taylor Buchholz (6-4) and advanced to third on Brian Giles' one-out single. Rodriguez followed with his winning hit.

Dodgers 8, Diamondbacks 1

At Phoenix, Andre Ethier and Casey Blake hit first-inning homers and Los Angeles roughed up Brandon Webb and Arizona.

Derek Lowe (11-11) tossed six shutout innings as the Dodgers took two of three games from Arizona, winning a road series for the first time since July 20, when they also took two of three in Phoenix.

Webb (19-6) failed in his second bid to become MLB's first 20-game winner. Unable to command his fastball and sinker, Webb allowed six earned runs, eight hits and five walks in 3 1-3 innings, matching his shortest outing of the season.

AP

Milwaukee Brewers' CC Sabathia throws in the eighth inning against the Pittsburgh Pirates in a baseball game in Pittsburgh' Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008.

White Sox 4, Red Sox 2

At Boston, Jim Thome hit his 536th career homer, Gavin Floyd won his fifth straight decision and the Chicago White Sox beat the Boston Red Sox to avoid a three-game sweep in the American League.

Thome hit a two-out, two-run drive off Tim Wakefield (8-9) in the first inning for his 29th of the season, and tied Mickey Mantle for 14th place on Major League Baseball's all-time list. Thome and Paul Konerko hit consecutive two-out doubles in the sixth to give Chicago a 3-1 lead.

Floyd (15-6) allowed one run and seven hits over 6 2-3 innings against a team that outscored the White Sox 16-4 and outhit them 30-11 in the first two games.

Red Sox second baseman Dustin Pedroia singled in the first for his ninth straight hit, reaching safely in 11 consecutive plate appearances. He went 1-for-4 with a walk after going 4-for-4 with a walk in each of the previous two games.

Rays 10, Orioles 4

At St. Petersburg, Florida, James Shields allowed one run over seven innings, and Jason Bartlett hit his first homer in over a year to help AL East-leading Tampa Bay complete a three-game sweep of Baltimore.

Bartlett had four hits and drove in two runs, including a solo shot during a two-run seventh that made it 10-1.

Blue Jays 6, Yankees 2

At New York, Roy Halladay won his fourth straight start, giving him four wins over New York this season, and Scott Rolen homered for Toronto.

Halladay (17-9) pitched seven effective innings, allowing only solo homers to Alex Rodriguez and Jason Giambi. The 2003 AL Cy Young Award winner improved to 4-1 with a 2.50 ERA in five starts against the Yankees this year.

Andy Pettitte (13-11) was charged with six runs and 10 hits for the second consecutive outing.

Tigers 4, Royals 2

At Detroit, Miguel Cabrera homered and drove in four runs in Detroit's win over Kansas.

Jose Guillen hit a home run for Kansas City, which has lost 12 of 14.

Mariners 6, Indians 4

At Cleveland, Adrian Beltre homered twice and Seattle beat Cleveland to complete a three-game sweep.

Beltre's third multihomer game of the season and 19th of his career helped Seattle win for the seventh time in nine games.

Ryan Rowland-Smith (4-2) allowed two runs—one earned—and seven hits over 6 1-3 innings.

Zach Jackson (0-1) gave up six runs and seven hits in five innings and Shin-Soo Choo hit his ninth homer for Cleveland.

Rangers 4, Angels 3

At Anaheim, California, Josh Hamilton and Marlon Byrd hit home runs and Texas beat Los Angeles to avoid a sweep of the four-game series.

Kevin Millwood (9-7) won his third straight start, and John Lackey (11-3) took the loss.

Palte umpire Bill Hohn had a busy day. He ejected Angels manager Mike Scioscia in the fifth, after ruling that Blalock had checked his swing and then ignored catcher Jeff Mathis' request for an appeal at third. And he tossed Rangers manager Ron Washington in the seventh and Gerald Laird in the eight for arguing third strike calls.

Twins 12, Athletics 4

At Oakland, California, Justin Morneau homered and drove in four runs, Scott Baker won for only the second time since the All-Star break and Minnesota beat Oakland to earn a split of the four-game series.

Alexi Casilla also homered and Nick Punto added two hits, including an infield single that sparked the Twins' five-run sixth inning.

Baker (8-4) allowed an RBI double to Jack Hannahan but kept the A's quiet otherwise, scattering six hits over six innings to improve to 3-0 in three career starts against Oakland.

Miami Dolphins sign Ricky Williams to one year extension

DAVIE, Fla. (AP)—Ricky Williams is signed up for two more seasons in the NFL. The Miami Dolphins are hoping he plays out his contract this time.

The Dolphins signed Williams to a one-year contract extension through the 2009-10 season Sunday, putting their faith in the controversial running back even though he's bailed on them in the past.

Speaking publicly for the first time in months, Dolphins general manager Jeff Ireland said the team wanted to extend the 31-year-old so he didn't become a free agent after this season.

"I wasn't here in the past so I don't really know if he had a lack of dedication in the past," Ireland said. "I mean, I know what I read and I know what circulates in NFL circles.

"But when we sat down coming here, we said, 'We're going to give this guy every benefit of the doubt. And he's got to show us that he is dedicated.' And he's done everything that we've asked him to do. And we feel very good about our decision to extend him."

Williams won the NFL's rushing title in 2002 before flunking the league's substance abuse test five times, announcing an early retirement and torpedoing the Dolphins as they've missed the playoffs a franchise-record six straight seasons.

But his talent is why now four Miami coaching staffs have put their faith—and the team's future—on his legs. Williams has been perhaps the best player on the field during training camp, and the team has centered its offense around him in the preseason.

The Dolphins, coming off a 1-15 season, are hoping that Williams can return to his star form—and fulfill his contract.

"You guys see it out there, we see it out there," Ireland said. "He's done an excellent job in the weight room, the meeting room, he's come out there and he's jumped out at us on tape. He looks good in the preseason. So everything we've seen since we got here ... he's done everything we've asked him to do."

For now, Williams is showing the kind of effort that once led the NFL in rushing and won him the Heisman Trophy in college at Texas.

He didn't miss a voluntary practice in Miami's strict offseason workout program under the new Bill Parcells-led regime. And he has bulked up to about 230 pounds, the weight he played at in his prime.

Williams has said this season is partly about changing his legacy.

"The way I left made it difficult," Williams said during training camp. "To come back and clear my name is important to me."

A cell phone message seeking comment from Williams' agent, Leigh Steinberg, was not immediately returned.

Federer wants others to recall long stint as No. 1

NEW YORK (AP)—As if trying to remind himself and everyone else where he's been and where he's quite certain he'll return, Roger Federer thrust his right fist overhead and pointed skyward with his index finger.

The universal gesture for No. 1.

As Federer made that signal, the 1970s song "Still the One" by Orleans rang out through Arthur Ashe Stadium on Sunday, marking the end of the four-time defending champion's 6-3, 6-3, 6-2 victory over 28th-seeded Radek Stepanek in the U.S. Open's third round.

Actually, for the first time in a while, Federer is not No. 1—in the seedings for the hard-court Grand Slam tournament or in the ATP rankings. Those honors belong to Rafael Nadal, who beat Federer in the lopsided French Open and epic Wimbledon finals and last week ended his record 237-week stay at the top.

Federer harbors no doubts that he can re-establish his ranking and his reputation among opponents, both built on the strength of 12 career major singles titles, two shy of Pete Sampras' record.

"That's the advantage I have. If I were to win a big tournament again, one of those Slams, whatever, right away I have the invincibility factor again, which is great for me," he said. "So that's what I'm working for. I was that close in Wimbledon, so I hope to go a step further and win it this time."

It's been a poor-by-his-standards—and, let's be clear, only by his lofty standards—season for Federer, whose 12 losses already are more than he absorbed in any entire year from 2004-07. His two titles, at minor events, are his fewest entering the U.S. Open since 2002.

On the other hand, Federer did reach the semifinals at the Australian Open—where he lost to eventual champion Novak Djokovic, a 6-7 (7), 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (0) winner over No. 30 Marin Cilic in Sunday night's last third-round match - and was the runner-up at the other two major tournaments.

AP

Roger Federer, of Switzerland, celebrates his win over Radek Stepanek, of the Czech Republic, at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Sunday, Aug. 31, 2008.

"I would love his bad year. ... The guy has the best four-year run ever, and we're all sitting here in shock that it's not the best five-year run ever. We have to use a little bit of perspective here as far as how good he's been," said Andy Roddick, the last man other than Federer to win the U.S. Open, back in 2003, and his potential semifinal opponent this year.

"If you have to hear about anything every day, you start thinking about it a little bit, and maybe that's where he's at," added Roddick, who reached the fourth round by beating No. 31 Andreas Seppi 6-2, 7-5, 7-6 (4).

Roddick will play No. 11 Fernando Gonzalez for a spot in the quarterfinals. Gonzalez, at 28 the oldest man left, beat Jarkko Nieminen 7-5, 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-1.

Federer's next opponent is No. 23 Igor Andreev of Russia, who beat No. 13 Fernando Verdasco of Spain in straight sets. In other men's third-round matches, No. 5 Nikolay Davydenko eliminated No. 26 Dmitry Tursunov, qualifier Gilles Muller fashioned a 6-7 (3), 3-6, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6), 7-5 upset of No. 18 Nicolas Almagro, and Australian Open runner-up Jo-Wilfried Tsonga lost to No. 15 Tommy Robredo.

The women are a round ahead, and No. 2 Jelena Jankovic reached the quarterfinals by coming back to beat No. 21 Caroline Wozniacki 3-6, 6-2, 6-1. Jankovic is among five women with a shot at reaching No. 1 in the rankings.

"It's a goal," Jankovic said, "but I want to win a Grand Slam."

Another woman in the chase for No. 1 - and also without a major championship title—is Olympic gold medalist Elena Dementieva, who beat Li Na 6-4, 6-1 and now faces No. 15 Patty Schnyder.

Jankovic will meet No. 29 Sybille Bammer, who got past No. 12 Marion Bartoli 7-6 (3), 0-6, 6-4 in a match that lasted 3 hours, 5 minutes—believed to be the longest women's match, by time, in U.S. Open history.

"I didn't even really sweat," Bammer said. "I could have played longer."

Muller looked as though he could have, too, even though his match against Almagro stretched beyond four hours.

Muller never had come back from a two-set deficit in his career before doing so in the second round against Tommy Haas. Now he's done it twice in a row—despite winning a dozen fewer points than Almagro, 187-175, and making 25 more unforced errors. And Muller broke serve only once all match, in the final game.

Muller is the only man from Luxembourg to play in a Grand Slam tournament in the 40-year Open era—and now the first man or woman from the country to reach the fourth round.

"I'm the first one actually to do everything. I mean, that's not my goal—to be the best in Luxembourg," he said.

This isn't his first moment in the spotlight at Flushing Meadows: Muller stunned Roddick in the first round in 2005. Since then, Only Federer has beaten Roddick at the U.S. Open, in the 2006 final and the 2007 quarterfinals.

Those are part of Federer's 30 consecutive victories in the hard-court major championship. The three wins this year have all come in straight sets, and Federer was truly tested only briefly by Stepanek.

Mike Weir takes 1-shot lead in Deutsche Bank Championship

NORTON, Mass. (AP)—Sunshine began to bake the greens, the wind kept players guessing and the birdie cheers kept right on coming Sunday in the Deutsche Bank Championship, the final one for Mike Weir.

His third birdie over the final five holes gave him a 4-under 67 and a one-shot lead.

And it meant next to nothing.

"I've got my hands full," Weir said after patching together a good score despite marginal shots.

First came a pair of 63s from Ben Crane and Camilo Villegas, the kind of score no one thought possible in such blustery conditions. Then came the steady surge of Sergio Garcia and Vijay Singh, and a late charge from Ernie Els and Jim Furyk to set the stage for the Labor Day finish.

Expect everyone to work extra hard to win the Deutsche Bank Championship.

"One less than the guy who comes in second," Garcia said when asked what it would take to capture the second stop in the PGA Tour Playoffs for the FedEx Cup.

It starts with Weir, who hit only half of the fairways and half of the greens. He has been around the lead all week, but had to grind out a score to stay there, including a superb 7-iron to 3 feet on the 14th, chipping in for birdie on the 15th and the final birdie on the 18th.

Weir was at 17-under 196, the 10th time the Canadian has had at least a share of the 54-hole lead on the PGA Tour. He has converted only one of those chances into a victory.

"There's great players on the leaderboard," Weir said. "Some guys that are hungry to win for the first time, guys that haven't won many times, and I'm trying to do the same thing. I just want to keep playing my type of golf. Hopefully, I can hit it a little better and find a few more fairways."

Villegas ignored the swirling wind and took only 22 putts in his round of 63, which put him in the final group Monday with Weir, one shot behind and perhaps his best chance for his first PGA Tour victory.

Three shots behind were Garcia (68) and Singh (69), part of the playoff last week at The Barclays that Singh won to move atop the FedEx Cup standings.

And right behind them were Furyk, who birdied three of his last four holes for a 69; Els, who made eagle on the final hole after nearly holing a 5-iron and posting a 69; and Crane, whose 63 came much earlier in the day.

Ten players were separated by five shots going into the Labor Day finish, the kind of shootout the Deutsche Bank Championship always seems to produce.

"I have to go out there and play good golf," said Singh, who won at the TPC Boston in 2004 when he rose to No. 1 in the world ranking. "I have to go out there and just go around the golf course and win. I think the guys that are leading are playing good golf."

Tiger Woods isn't around to take part in this one, and neither is defending champion Phil Mickelson. He played an ordinary round of 1-over 72 and missed the 54-hole cut, leaving questions about whether he will play next week in St. Louis in the third round of these playoffs.

Conditions were much more difficult, but Villegas and Crane sure didn't take notice.

"I thought a 66 or a 65 would be a great round," Garcia said. "I didn't see a 63."

Villegas relied on a tip from Singh - the power of positive thinking. Neither is regarded as a wizard with the putter, but Singh won last week at The Barclays after saying he would stop paying attention to negative comments about his short game and believe he was among the best.

"Starting this year, I decided to tell myself something similar to what Vijay told himself last week, that I'm a great putter and that I'm a lot better than people think and people write," Villegas said. "So today was a good reflection. And if you look at my putting stats for the year, I'm one of the great putters on tour."

Which tour he was talking about remains a question, however, as Villegas is not among the top 80. But the Colombian was brilliant in the third round, taking only 22 putts, including a birdie on the 14th that he thought he left short. Villegas immediately pulled up out of his stance and walked toward the cup, stopped, then shrugged his shoulders when it dropped.

Equally important was judging the wind, which seemed to blow sideways on every hole and was so tricky that players had a tough time deciding if it was hurting or helping their shots.

One such moment came at the 12th, with the pin tucked to the right over a hazard. Villegas hit a 9-iron that turned out perfect, caught the slope and stopped 12 feet away.

He believes he is ready to win, but his task is no easier than what Weir, Garcia, Singh, Els or anyone else faces. More wind is in the forecast, and the TPC Boston likely will play as tough as it has all week.

Villegas kept watching young players win - Anthony Kim, J.B. Holmes, Andres Romero, Sean O'Hair—and wondered why he couldn't join them.

"It's getting into me in a good way," Villegas said. "It's time to step it up and give a little kick on my butt and join them. So I've been working on that."

Garcia had one scary moment with a shot out of the thick rough on the 17th, in which the club stuck into a clump of grass. He said his wrist stung, but it didn't bother him on the 18th, even though he missed an easy birdie chance. The Spaniard would love another chance to win, coming off his runner-up finish at the PGA Championship and The Barclays.

"I have a chance tomorrow," Garcia said.

Olopai sets score to beat in September Ace

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

With a qualifying net score of 66, Tars Olopai has one hand around the September Ace of the Month Tournament of the Refaluwasch Golf Association.

Olopai topped the qualifying tournament held last Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links after his 78 gross (40-38) was sliced by his 12 handicap.

Sonny Flores was two shots off Olopai's pace with a net score of 68 built around a gross of 84 (39-45) to place second in the qualifier. The U.S. Post Office staff sports a 16 handicap.

Two golfers finished three strokes behind Olopai but Tony Rogolifoi grabbed the No. 3 spot after nipping Asterio Tawanpiy in a scorecard tiebreak.

Both players carded identical 69s but Rogolifoi came away with a 31.5 net in the front nine, compared to Tawanpiy's 34.

A total of 14 RGA members took part in the qualifier. The rest, with their net scores in parenthesis, were as follows: Dwayn Stephens (70); Jordan Kossam (70); Manny Mangarero (70); Jess Wabol (73); Ben Duenas (73); Adam Hardwicke (73); Ulysis Kapileo (74); Tom Tebuteb (75); Louie Tilipao (81); and Joe Wabol (86).

In the closest to the pin competition, Duenas was without peer in hole No. 6, while Tawanpiy owned No. 15.

RGA will hold its September Ace of the Month Tournament two Sundays from now on Sept. 13 at the same Talafofo venue.

Tournament director Jess Wabol also reminded Ace of the Month winners that they need to have played in a minimum of six tournaments (including qualifiers) in order to qualify for the yearend RGA Club Championship.

He said only four monthly championships remain before RGA's yearend Club Championship set on Dec. 6 at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville. The Club Championship assembles all 12 monthly champions, provided they qualify.

For more information about RGA and the rest of its events in the 2008 calendar, contact Wabol at 233-3673 or RGA president Adam Hardwicke at 483-2926.

PCA softball registration on

Registration for the 2008 SaipanCell/Palau Community Association Softball Tournament is ongoing with interested teams having until only next week to make it to the two-weekend event.

Entrance fee is $400 and will be due, along with a copy of rosters and waiver forms, on Sept. 12 at 5pm.

PCA president Rufino Aguon said they will be accepting a maximum of 12 teams for the tournament, which will be held on Sept 20 to 21, and Sept. 27 to 28 at the Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

Team representatives are required to attend a meeting on Sept. 12 for the drawing of schedule of games.

This year's PCA softball tilt will offer $1,000 to the champion team, which will take home a perpetual wood-carved trophy.

The softball tournament is a fundraiser for PCA, which is building an Abai (Palauan word for meeting place) on Navy Hill.

The first weekend of the tournament will have teams playing a double-elimination format. The playoffs are set for the second week with the format to be determined after the elimination round.

This year's defending champion is No Ka Oi/Yes to Casino, which defeated the Warriors in the finals.

No Ka Oi was undefeated in the elimination round to advance to the championship round and gain a twice-to-beat advantage over the Warriors.

The winning team was composed of Joey C. Dela Cruz, Mario Sablan, Mel Sakisat, Ton Camacho, Manny Sablan, Jerry Ayuyu, J.R. Suel, J.J. Laniyo, Roy Celis, Nick Castro, Elias Saralu, Toi Celis, Julian Camacho, and Ben Tagabuel. Roque Celis managed the team.

To register or for more information, contact Aguon at 234-5498, extension 2500, Normal Mobel at 322-9707, Eileen Kintol at 235-6804, or Brian Adelbai at 234-8438. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Gabe Norwood makes it Rain or Shine

MANILA, Philippines—The feeling of being No. 1 has yet to sink in when Filipino-American sensation Gabe Norwood realized he was headed for a franchise banking on him to help turn its fortunes around in the PBA.

As expected, Rain or Shine (formerly Welcoat) made the 6-foot-5 Norwood, a standout from George Mason University in the U.S. NCAA, the top pick in the 2008 Philippine Basketball Association Annual Draft Sunday before a huge crowd at the Activity Center of the Market! Market! Mall in Taguig City.

And Norwood is confident his work ethic will rub off on his new team.

"It's an amazing feeling to be No. 1," said Norwood, who represented the country in the FIBA-Asia Championships last year and the Southeast Asian Games. ***(PDI)***

HURTING

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not as fit as Lorenzo Pineda of Vanuatu, he lost the title match, 6-4, 6-2.

Heo could not help abut agree with Race's assessment.

"I could not win the finals in POJC because I was not fit," said Heo, whose fitness was doubtful anew when he played his first game in Japan on Aug. 27. "When I got these injuries, I learned that being fit is a key to winning."

"I really have to work on my fitness so I can stay longer and stronger in a game, especially if the match will go to a third set," the 16-year-old netter said.

Heo is hoping he will recover soon and his rigorous training in Japan will bring him back to his tough form.

Training in Japan starts as early as 6:30am with Heo running and sprinting around the park until 7am. He does a lot of physical training in the morning and evening sessions. The last training sessions ends at 7:30pm.

"I hope to recover soon and make up for that loss in the first tournament," said Heo.

The CNMI bet will be playing in the Hyogo International Junior Tournament 2, set from Sept. 3 to 7 in the same venue.

BIG

From Page 28

last, give them the toughest fight of their life,'" Dela Cruz said.

Rock Steady took Game 4 easily, 8-4, shifting the momentum of the series to its side.

Game 5 was played on the same night, a few minutes after Game 4 concluded.

The Rangers were leading, 2-1, when the power went off, rescheduling the deciding game for Aug. 30, and breaking Rock Steady's momentum.

"When we trailed in Game 5, lost our momentum and was told to return on Saturday to continue the game, I told our players not to get frustrated. We had endured the first four games with the power on or not. We had one more game to play and we had to finish it, win or lose, 'just give your best shot,'" Dela Cruz said.

"'Let's play Game 5 for your teammates who could not join us and for our fans who come here every game,'" he added.

Rock Steady rewarded their supporters with a Game 5 win, stealing the championship trophy from the Rangers and completing its impressive 2008 season. Rock Steady also won the pennant

The newly-crowned champion dedicated their victory to their off-island teammates, Ton Manibusan, Martin Pangelinan, Mario Sablan, and Byron Kaipat, and manager Mel Tenorio.

Manibusan and Pangelinan are in California fighting bush fires, while Tenorio is on a business trip.

"It was a tough series, both teams were shorthanded, but in the end it boils down to which team wants it more, which team has the heart to withstand all obstacles. I am very happy it was us," Dela Cruz said.

NMC

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several members of the CNMI National Team playing for the college.

They are Mark Wallace, Joe Villacrusis, and Mel Manibusan. Wallace and Villacrusis did most of the damage for NMC in their victory against PTI. Wallace erupted for 33 points, while Villacrusis chipped in 23.

Meanwhile, only eight teams will advance to the playoffs, which will start on Thursday, if power permits.

Organizers have yet to release the official list of the playoff qualifiers, but besides NMC and PTI, the six other teams which are expected to make it to the next round are defending champion Autonomous, Department of Community and Cultural Sports, Bank of Guam Express, DOC, Aguaguat and the Legislature.

The first round of the playoffs will have the No. 1 team squaring off with the No. 8 squad, No. 2 vs No. 7, No. 3 vs No. 6 and No. 4 vs No.5.

A double elimination format will be in implemented in the playoffs.

Last year, Autonomous (formerly Office of the Public Auditor) won the championship after outclassing NMC in the title series.

OPA lost Game 1 of the best-of-three title showdown, 79-82. It recovered in Game 2, 76-63, to force a deciding Game 3. OPA completed its come-from-behind victory with a 9-82 triumph in Game 3.

WANTED

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with NMIFA administrative secretary Sara Yap-Brostrom or Gigi Zapanta. Registration can be made via phone by calling 235-0173 or via email at syap@nmifa.com.

CNMI National Coach Nick Swaim will be spearheading the clinic.

Individuals who will volunteer to coach will be tasked to handle each age group teams from NMIFA's four clubs, namely the MP United, Matansa, Independents, and Pairie.

Players who are interested to play in the league are requested to register at NMIFA or inquire with the coordinators of the respective clubs.

Tina Goodwin is the coordinator for MP United, Christina Smith for Matansa, Michael Thomas for the Independents, and Francine Sablan for Pairie.

Last year, the fall league had only three clubs, which represented Saipan's three zones.

Zone 1 was for players from the village north of Isla Road, including the north portion of Capital Hill to Santa Rita Rd. Zone 2 was consisted of players from Navy Hill, Capitol Hill and I Denni area South of Isla road all the way to Santa Rita Road. Zone 2 was extended all the way to every area north of the intersection of Microl/Beach Rd and Mobile Station and Middle Rd. North back to Garapan. Zone 3 was for players from south and east of Microl intersection, Beach road, Mobil station of Middle Rd. and all the way south to Koblerville, and East as far as Papago and Kagman.

NMIFA used zoning last year to encourage stronger participation in areas which might not be able to travel all the way to the centralized playing fields at American Memorial Park.

Today, zoning is still in effect for players wishing to play in any of the four youth football clubs on Saipan.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	84	51	.622	
Boston	79	57	.581	5
New York	72	64	.529	12
Toronto	70	66	.515	14
Baltimore	63	73	.463	21

Central Division

Chicago	77	59	.566	–
Minnesota	77	60	.562	½
Detroit	66	70	.485	11
Cleveland	65	70	.481	11
Kansas City	57	79	.419	20

West Division

Los Angeles	83	53	.610	–
Texas	67	71	.486	17
Oakland	63	74	.460	20
Seattle	53	83	.390	30

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	76	61	.555	–
Philadelphia	75	62	.547	1
Florida	69	68	.504	7
Atlanta	59	78	.431	17
Washington	52	85	.380	24

Central Division

Chicago	85	52	.620	–
Milwaukee	80	56	.588	4
St. Louis	74	63	.540	11
Houston	71	66	.518	14
Cincinnati	61	76	.445	24
Pittsburgh	57	79	.419	27½

West Division

Arizona	69	67	.507	–
Los Angeles	67	70	.489	2
Colorado	64	74	.464	6
San Francisco	59	77	.434	10
San Diego	53	83	.390	16

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 6, N.Y. Yankees 2
Detroit 4, Kansas City 2
Seattle 6, Cleveland 4
Chicago White Sox 4, Boston 2
Tampa Bay 10, Baltimore 4
Texas 4, L.A. Angels 3
Minnesota 12, Oakland 4
Cincinnati 9, San Francisco 3
N.Y. Mets 6, Florida 2
Washington 8, Atlanta 4
Milwaukee 7, Pittsburgh 0
Houston 3, St. Louis 0
Philadelphia 5, Chicago Cubs 3
San Diego 2, Colorado 1
L.A. Dodgers 8, Arizona 1

DEUTSCHE BANK SCORES

NORTON, Massachusetts (AP)–Scores Sunday from the Deutsche Bank Championship, a $7 million (4.7 million euro) U.S. PGA Tour playoff at 7,207-yard, par-71 TPC Boston:

THIRD ROUND

Mike Weir	61-68-67	196
Camilo Villegas	68-66-63	197
Sergio Garcia	67-64-68	199
Vijay Singh	64-66-69	199
Ben Crane	72-65-63	200
Ernie Els	66-65-69	200
Jim Furyk	66-65-69	200
Briny Baird	64-69-68	201
Heath Slocum	64-68-69	201
Tim Clark	66-62-73	201
Ryuji Imada	69-65-68	202
Richard S. Johnson	67-66-69	202
Carl Pettersson	67-68-68	203
Ken Duke	66-67-70	203
D.J. Trahan	67-66-70	203
Steve Marino	66-66-71	203
Woody Austin	72-66-66	204
Angel Cabrera	67-68-69	204
Charlie Wi	66-67-71	204
Kevin Streelman	66-65-73	204
Jesper Parnevik	68-71-66	205
Michael Allen	71-68-66	205
Bill Haas	69-70-66	205
Justin Leonard	69-70-66	205
Mark Wilson	69-69-67	205
Stewart Cink	67-69-69	205
Jonathan Byrd	67-69-69	205
Tom Pernice, Jr.	69-67-69	205
Jeff Overton	66-67-72	205
Ben Curtis	65-65-75	205
Brett Quigley	69-70-67	206
Tim Herron	72-67-67	206
Lucas Glover	68-71-67	206
Pat Perez	69-69-68	206
Chad Campbell	67-70-69	206
Stuart Appleby	70-66-70	206
Steve Stricker	69-67-70	206
Brian Davis	70-66-70	206
Hunter Mahan	70-64-72	206
Steve Flesch	68-65-73	206
Anthony Kim	66-66-74	206
Bart Bryant	69-70-68	207
Chez Reavie	69-69-69	207
Boo Weekley	70-67-70	207
Charley Hoffman	67-69-71	207
Brandt Snedeker	67-68-72	207
Johnson Wagner	68-65-74	207
John Mallinger	66-67-74	207
Scott McCarron	69-70-69	208
Frank Lickliter II	73-65-70	208
Martin Laird	70-68-70	208
John Senden	69-69-70	208
J.J. Henry	68-69-71	208
Kevin Sutherland	70-67-71	208
Scott Verplank	69-68-71	208
Robert Allenby	70-67-71	208
Tim Petrovic	71-65-72	208
Nick O'Hern	69-66-73	208
Bo Van Pelt	67-67-74	208
John Merrick	64-68-76	208
John Rollins	73-66-70	209
K.J. Choi	69-70-70	209
Trevor Immelman	71-67-71	209
Stephen Ames	71-67-71	209
Andres Romero	68-69-72	209
Brian Gay	68-68-73	209
Fredrik Jacobson	67-68-74	209
Ryan Palmer	67-68-74	209
Bubba Watson	70-69-71	210
Rocco Mediate	69-70-71	210
Geoff Ogilvy	67-70-73	210
Jason Day	70-66-74	210

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2008 Budweiser SML Awardees

Photos by
ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Ford Rangers and their supporters pose for a group photo after receiving their runner-up trophy.

Rangers coach John Flores, right, receives their runner-up trophy from Budweiser's Tom Basa, left, and baseball president Rose Igitol.

Golden Globe (infield) winner Oliver Secharmidal of 2008 season champion Rock Steady.

Batting champion John M. Reyes of the Korean Dreams.

Regular season MVP, runs champion, and Golden Glove (outfield) awardee Tyrone Omar of Rock Steady.

Strikeouts champion Kim Jae Young of Komoro poses for the camera. He also won the Pitcher of the Year and Rookie of the Year awards.

Finals MVP Nick San Nicolas, who gave up only one run at the resumption of the deciding Game 5 of the title series, flashes a thumbs up sign. Joining him at the award ceremony is Rose Igitol.

Triples champion Benwachi Taisakan, right, of the Rangers is congratulated by SML coordinator Tony Rogolifoi.

Homeruns champion, Mike Pangelinan of the Tanapag Falcons, second left, and Benwachi Taisakan, right. Joining them is SML's Tony Rogolifoi, second right.

Federer wants others to recall long stint as No. 1

As if trying to remind himself and everyone else where he's been and where he's quite certain he'll return, Roger Federer thrust his right fist overhead and pointed skyward with his index finger. 25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sabathia throws 1-hitter in Brewers win over Pirates

Sabathia pitched a one-hitter in his latest dominating start, allowing only an infield single as the Milwaukee Brewers beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 7-0 in the National League on Sunday. 24

Hurting Heo soldiers on in Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The shots were there, the legs were not.

Ji Hoon Heo, who lost his debut in the Hyogo International Junior Tournament 1, admitted his questionable fitness cost him an early exit at the Miki Disaster Management Park Beans Dome in Hyogo Prefecture, Japan.

Heo bowed to Japan's Shintaro Imai in straight sets, 1-6, 3-6, last week.

The CNMI top junior netter played in his first tournament in Japan with his legs and ankle hurting.

Heo got these injuries while playing in the 2008 Open Junior BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Caledonie in New Caledonia some two months ago. He rested for a couple of weeks, hoping to ease the pain, while waiting for the kick off of the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji last month. He was relieved a bit, but the lack of regular training made him quiet lethargic for the POJC.

CNMI coach Jeff Race said Heo made up for his doubtful fitness by relying on his wits to win preliminary matches in POJC. Race and Arriola, who arrived in Fiji a few weeks later than Heo, played several warm-up matches with the MHS student, but still these were not enough to bring him back to his old deadly form.

Heo advanced to the finals, but Race said that since the CNMI netter was

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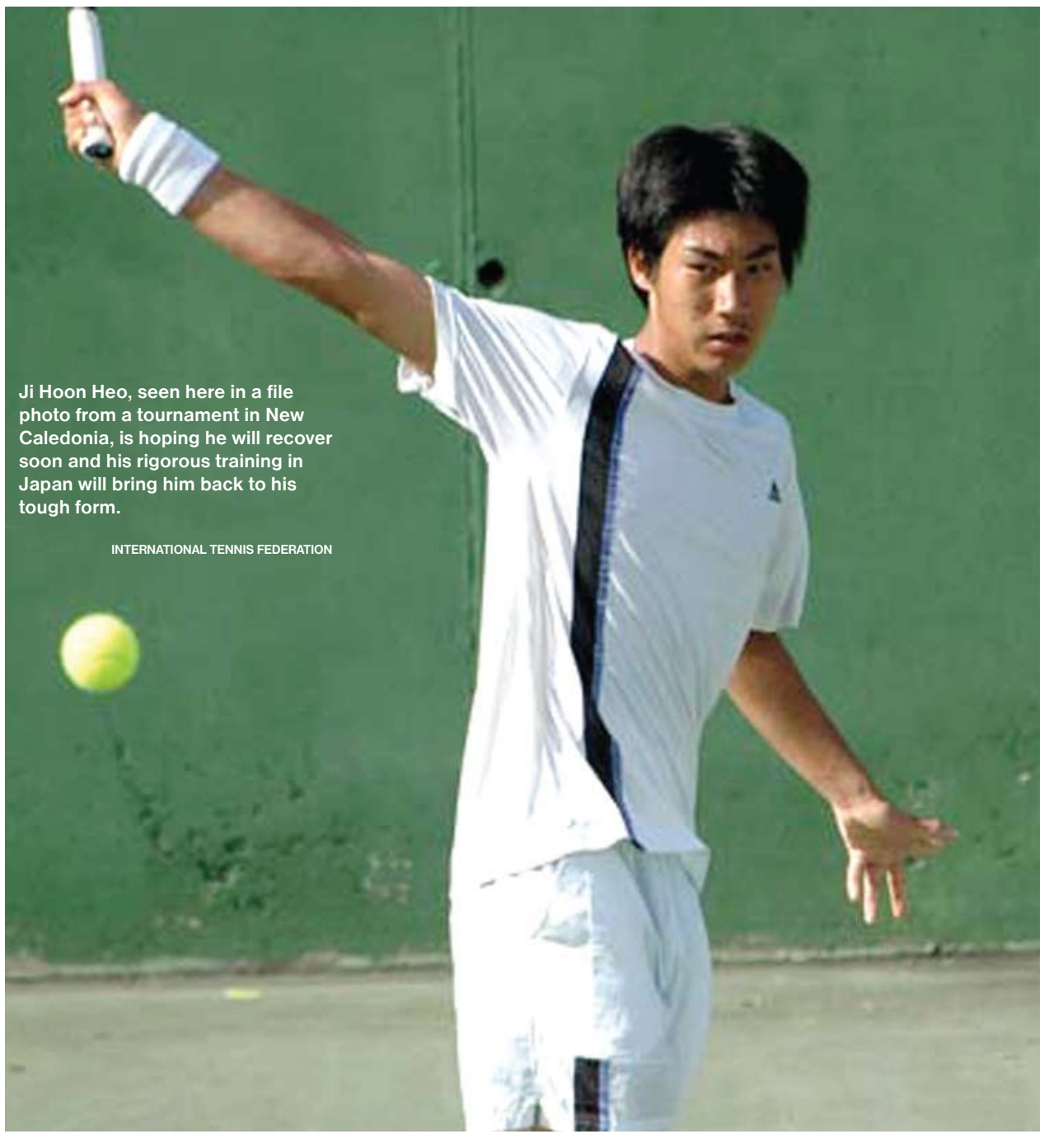

Ji Hoon Heo, seen here in a file photo from a tournament in New Caledonia, is hoping he will recover soon and his rigorous training in Japan will bring him back to his tough form.

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION

Wanted: Coaches, referees for youth soccer

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Wishing to coach, but don't want too much pressure from training players?

Try volunteering your service with the 2008 NMIFA Fall Youth Football League which is looking for coaches and referees for the opening of the youth event on Sept. 15.

Sue Knecht, vice president of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association and chair of NMIFA's Youth Committee, said they are looking for coaches who will create a learning, but fun soccer environment for players during training and actual games.

"Think about how much fun you are going to have with these little Under-6, Under-8, and Under-10 players," Knecht said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Knecht said first-time coaches need not to worry about having no experience in mentoring a team, as NMIFA will be holding a free coaching clinic for parents and volunteers.

The clinic will be held on Sept. 2 and 3, from 6pm to 8pm. Today's coaching seminar will take place at the NMIFA office in TSL Building in Garapan, while tomorrow's clinic will be held at the Civic Center Field and Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Interested participants in the clinic are required to be in an athletic attire, as facilitators will demonstrate game and practice drills in the two-day seminar.

They are also asked to pre-register

See WANTED on Page 26

Big fighting heart made up for depleted lineup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

What Rock Steady lacked in manpower, it more than made up with its big fighting heart.

"We were short-handed in manpower, but those who stayed wit the team until the final game made sure they will go all out in Game 5, win or lose," said Rock Steady coach Joey Dela Cruz after his team beat the Rangers in the deciding Game 5, 5-3, to capture the title in the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League baseball.

Actually, both teams had depleted lineups going into the last three games of the best-of-five title series. Players were either off-island or did not want to go to the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios after spending a considerable amount of money and time only to go home with an unfinished match due to the rolling power outages.

But Rock Steady was hit the hardest as far as having players available for the game was concerned. From a 25-man full roster, it was down to 12 in the deciding Game 5.

Having a depleted lineup and trailing in the power outages-delayed series, 1-2, it would be easy to understand if Rock Steady would just fold up and wave the white flag.

But Rock Steady has so much pride to do that.

"When we lost Game 3 and the Rangers moved within one win of getting the championship, I told my players, 'go and play Game 4 as if it is your

See BIG on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rock Steady's Joey Dela Cruz, second left, is all smiles as he receives his Coach of the Year trophy. Joining him for a group photo are, from left, Budweiser's Tom Basa, award ceremony announcer Bob Coldeen and SML coordinator Tony Rogolifoi.

NMC needs sweep to win PTI caging pennant

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The last two games in the Inaugural PTI Inter-Government/Business Basketball League will be the deciding factor in the race for the pennant trophy between Northern Marianas College and PTI.

PTI had already completed its assignment in the regular season, ending the single round-robin elimination with a 10-1 record.

NMC holds an 8-1 slate and has two more games left. It will face Autonomous today and the Commonwealth Ports Authority tomorrow at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

An NMC sweep will put the team in a tie for first place with PTI. But NMC will still get the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs and the pennant, as it beat PTI in their lone meeting this season, 87-82.

NMC is mentored by CNMI National coach Rufino Aguon, who has

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NMC's Joe Villacrusis, right, is nudged by PTI's Elmer Esdrelon as the former drives to the basket during their game in the PTI caging at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last month.